



THE HOOT OWL

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SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAR. APRIL 1992

VOL 30 # 2

TUES. MAR. 10. The Natural History & Ecology of Spotted Owls In the Sierra Nevada. Dr. Stephen Laymon is the director of the Kern River Research Station. He is both informing & entertaining and will touch on their current political status as well. 7:30 Central United Methodist Church across from U.O.P. in Stockton. Good parking, bring a guest.

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SAT. MAR. 14. Cosumnes Census: Call John Schick 464-7083

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SAT. MAR. 21 Trip to Lodi Lake. Usually good birding all year. Meet at Laurel Ave. Entrance at 9am. Info, call Waldo Holt at 462-4438.

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TUE. MAR. 24 San Joaquin Audubon Board Meeting 7:30.

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SAT. MAR. 28 Paddy Creek Marsh plus Foothill Ponds & Lakes.

Field trip to observe vernal pools, spring wildflowers and even birds.

7:30 am. Burns Tower U.O.P. Call leader Steve Stocking for info 465-2729

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SUN. MAR. 29 Micke Grove Field Trip. For beginners and others. Last year a winter wren & a red-breasted sapsucker showed. Will be meeting to car pool at Burns Tower U.O.P at 7:30. Jim Rexroth leader 951-6260.

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SAT. APRIL 11. Cosumnes Census: Call John Schick 464-7083

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SAT. APRIL 11 Lodi Lake Trip. Spring Migrants Galore. Laurel Ave. entrance to the park at 9am. Call leader Waldo Holt for info. 462-4438.

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TUE. APRIL 14 Program: South Florida & the Dry Tortugas.

Natalie Cudney is an avid birder and photographer from Sacramento who will illustrate her recent trip to this tropical area where she photographed noddys, boobys, tropicbirds and others. 7:30, Central United Methodist.

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TUE. APRIL 22. Kiln Canyon Field Trip. Calliope & Rufous Hummers and much, much more. 7:30am. Waldo Holt at 462-4438 for more info.

SAT. APRIL 25 & SUN APRIL 26. SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON 1992 BIRDATHON>>>>>>> See back page for more info>>>>

SAT. MAY 2. Mokelumne River Alliance, Mokelumne River Clean-up. Help out the earth. Barbara Bowers 369-5910 for info.

SUN. MAY 3. EARTH DAY, OAK PARK STOCKTON. 12 to 5pm.

BIRDS

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All sightings by David Yee unless noted. LL is Lodi Lake, SSP, our favorite local body of water, the Stockton sewage ponds. Jan 1, a Vesper Sparrow on Liberty Road, and a Eur. Wigeon and a R-br. Merganser at Camanche. Jan 4. A "Common" Gr-winged Teal on Woodbridge Rd with Waldo. Jan. 5 a Wilson's Warb in Stockton yard by N. Greenwood. Jan. 11 a "Bewick's" Swan at 1-5 & Hwy 12, 4 Euro. Wigeon at Woodbridge Rd w/Waldo and 170 Wh. Pelicans on Staten Is. with Waldo. Jan 14 a Wh-throated Sparrow in Stockton yard by S.&L. Stocking. Jan. 16 an Or.Crw. Warbler in Stockton yard by S. Stocking. Jan. 19, six Long-billed Curlew in Coalinga field by Susan Harper. Jan. 29 a Lesser Yellowlegs at SSP. Feb. 1, 170 C. Mergansers, N.Lake Stockton, 4 "Bewick's" Swans and 800 Blk-b. Plover on Empire Tract all w/Waldo. Feb. 5. a Hutton's Vireo at Stockton Rural Cemetary, Feb. 8, 2000 D-cr. Cormorants over Stockton Rural Cemetary. Feb. 16, 28 Swainson's Hawk at Venice I. by Waldo. Feb. 19 a Cliff Swallow at SSP. Feb. 20 a Blk-th Gray Warb at Louis Park. & a R-w Swallow in Stockton. Feb. 22 at Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge, Ross's Goose, Eur. Wigeon, Vermilion Flycatcher all by S.&L. Stocking and Mary Mayes. Feb. 25 a Pine Siskin, 3 G-cr. Kinglet and 2 Purple Finch at LL. Feb. 26, 6 Hooded Merg at Empire Tract. Feb. 27 a Cooper's Hawk after the Robins and Cedar Waxwings in Stockings Stockton yard. Feb. 29 a N. Shrike, Golden Eagle, N. Harrier, Horned Larks, Lark Spar. and others in Coalinga Hills front & back yard by Stockings and Harpers.

GREY LODGE FIELD TRIP

Dave Wagner, our leader, reported that this was an excellent outing. The weather was fantastic and the turnout great with 17 enthusiastic birders. The fog cleared to reward us with spectacular views of the Sutter Buttes and overhead flights of Snow and White-fronted Geese. We also saw other waterfowl species and shorebirds. A knowledgeable State Fish & Game volunteer led our walk and related interesting facts about the flora and fauna of the State Refuge.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

WHY WE SUPPORT WETLANDS

- (1) Since 1974, waterfowl populations in the Central Valley have decreased by 50% to an all-time low.
- (2) Wetlands in the Central Valley are also the wintering habitat for over one-half of the waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway, making it one of the five most important waterfowl areas in the United States. Waterfowl habitat in the Central Valley has been reduced from 4,000,000 to just 290,000 acres.
- (3) The Sacramento River's winter salmon runs have decreased by 99% from historic levels, jeopardizing one of California's richest salmon fisheries.
- (4) The delta smelt, a small native fish of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, has decreased by 90% in the last 20 years, threatening the fish with extinction.

AN ENDANGERED RAT?????

The Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, a native of southern California is protected by the Endangered Species Act. Protecting a "RAT" is incomprehensible to some persons who oppose setting up a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the species.

The Kangaroo Rat is a key prey species for hawks and owls. Other species such as the Golden Eagle and Kit Fox would also benefit from the protection given to the Kangaroo Rat by its HCP.

In addition, there are moral, scientific, esthetic, and possibly even economic reasons for protection of all species. Species such as the Rosy Periwinkle and the Pacific Yew have offered valuable medicines for the treatment of cancer. Others are being studied.

Seems like there are more than enough good reasons to protect endangered species.

FORM

540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more:

48 Alzheimer's Disease _____	48 _____
49 Senior Citizens _____	49 _____
50 ENDANGERED SPECIES _____	50 <u>15</u>
51 Child Abuse _____	51 _____
52 Olympics _____	52 _____
53 Vietnam Veterans _____	53 _____



MUCH LEGISLATION TO STUDY

If you are interested in ancient forest protection legislation, write to your member of the House of Representatives asking for ancient forest legislation based on a scientifically credible plan that will preserve the forests, wildlife, and the fisheries. Such legislation should not limit judicial review of forest management decisions.

Central Valley Project Improvement Act, S. 484 by Senator Bradley. This bill would require all water districts receiving Central Valley Project Water to begin metering their water deliveries. It would also give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats affected by the Central Valley Project and provide necessary funding. Is the threat of this bill the reason the State is making moves to buy the Central Valley Project? Then California water interests believe that they could avoid biting the bullet of water conservation.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Management and Policy Act, S. 1862 (Senator Bill Graham) would reform some aspects of the management of the refuge system. These areas sometimes must accommodate such incompatible uses as military bombing & logging. Wildlife should come first.

AB 350 (Costa) is the California Riparian Parkway Protection Act which would allow the State Lands Commission to assist local governments in planning and establishing riparian parkways along local streams and rivers. Some of our rivers could use some help. You might check into this bill.

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN

The campaign will fund wildlife restoration projects at more than 120 wildlands throughout the state, as well as provide for wildlife education and recreation projects.

For a donation of \$35 or more you'll receive a one-year subscription of Outdoor California magazine. As a donor of \$11 or more you will receive a membership card which allows you to visit state wildlife areas.

Send to: The California Wildlife Campaign
Department of Fish and Game
3211 S. Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

JOHNSTON WANTS LOCAL AGENCY TO PROTECT DELTA

State Senator Patrick Johnston has proposed a regional agency which would be in charge of protecting the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta. The hope is to be able to protect what is left of the Delta's agricultural land, open spaces, and wildlife habitats. The natural habitat of the Delta has been deteriorating rapidly as development closes in from all sides. Cities from Lathrop to Isleton to Stockton and those in Contra Costa County all have designs on water oriented developments in the Delta. Because cities, counties and area developers jealously hold powers of land use decisions in their "spheres of influence", they oppose any meaningful regional agency. Two golf courses have already been approved off of Eight Mile Road in the Delta. An amusement park is in the works west of Lathrop. Stockton has its eye on several Delta islands west of town. Someone is even considering a golf course on Sherman Island.

If legislation for this agency actually transpires, developers would have to assure local government that there would be no loss of wetlands, no degradation of water quality, no additional pollution, no soil erosion or subsidence, no reduction in flyway habitat or public access, no increase of flood hazards, no adverse impacts on agriculture, no increase in potential for vandalism or trespassing or public or private nuisances and no deterioration of levees.

Look good to you? Then let the Senator know because all those who have vested interests in Delta development are sure letting him know what they want. Or you can go out there on one last field trip and kiss it goodby.



Audubon Convention, Washington, D.C.

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON BIRDATHON 1992 APRIL 25-26

San Joaquin Audubon's one big fund-raising function is its birdathon. The last time we held one was three years ago, and we raised about \$7,000. \$7,000 and its time for another, and I would like to raise at least \$10,000 with this one! Why the big push for so much money? Because the cost of protecting our natural heritage has sky-rocketed. Presently, your local Audubon chapter is actively engaged in developing a Swainson's Hawk management plan for Stockton; spearheading a statewide effort to census Burrowing Owls in San Joaquin County; and trying to save the Mokelumne River and other critical habitat. All of this in addition to the "mundane" things which we do on a regular basis such as putting out the newsletter, conducting two Christmas Bird Counts, and sponsoring nature education in local classrooms. As the demand for us as Auduboners to be actively involved in the affairs of our local community increases, the demand for greater financial resources also increases.

How can you participate? The best way is to pledge so much per bird species that will be seen on count day, April 25 or 26. Between 100-150 species will be seen, so pledge accordingly. However, we also need help in gathering pledges, making phone calls, participating on count day, etc. If you wish to pledge or help out in any way, please give me a call. And be assured, we are making a difference.

David Yee Co:ordinator 466-3337 951-1526.

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473-7073

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>>Joint membership in the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to both Audubon magazine and The Hoot Owl. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to Terry Ronneberg, 1035 Wood Thrush Ln. Tracy Ca. 95376. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

---\$35 individual---\$38 family---\$20 student---\$21 senior. \$23 senior family
---\$50 sustaining---\$250 contributing---\$1,500 life---\$5newsletter (non-member)

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236 West Knoles Way
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