



THE HOOT OWL

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SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAR. APL. 1994

VOL. 32 #2

Tue Mar. 8: PROGRAM & MEETING: SLIDES AND PROGRAM ON NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS PRESENTED BY BOB BARNES, CO-ORDINATOR OF THE BIRDS IN THE BALANCE PROGRAM FOR WESTERN REGIONAL AUDUBON. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church, corner of Pacific and Fulton, Stockton. Cookies galore.

Sat. Mar 12. Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count Call John Schick at 464-8304.

Sun. Mar 13. Field Trip to Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge. Great variety of birds as well as Tule Elk and River Otter. \$2.50 entrance fee. Meet leader Jim Rowoth at 7:30 at Park and Ride, S.E. Corner of I-5 & 12. 462-7512

Sat. Mar. 19. Field Trip to Lodi Lake Nature Area. Meet your leader Waldo Holt at the end of Laurel Ave. on the east side of the Lake off Lodi Avenue at 8am. Good location for migrating warblers & other Riparian birds.

WESTERN REGIONAL AUDUBON CONFERENCE: MARCH 26-29. (481-5332)

Sat. Apl.9. Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count. Call John Schick at 464-8304.

TUESDAY APL. 12. MIKE DANZENBAKER, NATIONALLY KNOWN AND PUBLISHED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER FROM SAN JOSE WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM ON NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS. 7:30 AT CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. ABUNDANT PARKING.

SAT.APL. 16. Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet your leader Terry Ronneberg (835-7847) at the Shell Station at Tracy Blvd. & I-5 in Tracy at 7:30am. Wildflowers and birds of the Woodland-chaparral.

SUN. APRIL 17. EARTH DAY AT OAK PARK. WE PLAN TO HAVE A BOOTH AND NEED HELP TO GET OUT THE AUDUBON MESSAGE. CALL JIM R. 462-7512.

Wed. Apl. 27. Field Trip to Kiln Canyon. Lots and Lots of Hummingbirds of several species should be the highlight of this midweek trip. Call leader Waldo Holt at 462-4438 for further information.

BROVELLI WOODS BUCKEYE RANCH LAWSUIT

At the Sierra Club Group meeting on Wednesday **March 23** there will be a program which will both present slides of this beautiful and endangered place slated to become an exclusive golfcourse. Audubon has joined the Sierra Club and others to contest the cancellation of the Williamson Act contract on this property. Planned also is the appearance of the Sierra Club Legal Defence Fund Attorney. 7pm social, 7:30 Program, Holy Cross Methodist, 1200 West Hammer. The Delta-Sierra Group **April 27** meeting will be slides of Wildflowers of the Middle and Higher Sierra Nevada. Presenter: Steve Stocking Same place, same time.



TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD CENSUS SET FOR APRIL 23rd

The California Department of Fish and Game's Tricolored Blackbird Working Group has taken notice of the success of the January, 1994 California Mountain Plover Census; especially the important role of Audubon Chapters and members. As a result, they have asked the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society to help coordinate the first, single date, statewide census of Tricolored Blackbird nesting and foraging locations. The census will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1994.

Your participation will make an important scientific contribution by helping to determine overall numbers of Tricolored Blackbirds, size and location of nesting colonies, and foraging areas. Furthermore, the data you gather will be used to help shape this year's research when it is reviewed at a Tricolored Blackbird Working Group meeting held within two weeks of the census.

For further information contact Bob Barnes 916-481-5332.

DOCENT LED NATURE WALKS AT COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE

The Cosumnes River Preserve is proud to announce docent-led nature walks which are to begin this spring. Starting March 5, docents will lead nature walks along the Willow Slough nature trail on most Saturdays beginning at 10:00 a.m. and on most Sundays starting at 1:30 p.m. Additionally, the Visitor Center will be open most weekends from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.. For more information, please call 916 684-2816.

IT IS NOT ONLY SPOTTED OWLS

Pileated Woodpeckers are another species of bird which nests in cavities and relies heavily on old growth forest for survival.

Several species of bat are closely associated with old-growth forests. Bat populations may be detrimentally affected by forest management practices involving the removal of large, old trees and snags.

Townsend's chipmunks may be important in maintaining natural ecosystem processes in forests in Oregon. Old-growth stands provide better habitat than do young second-growth stands.

(Extracted from "Recent Publications of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Third Quarter 1993. U.S.Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.)

LURE BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR YARD

There are quite a few plants which will attract butterflies including butterfly bush, sunflowers, lilies, gayfeather, and gloriosa daisy. Zinnias and lantana are good for attracting "skippers", small butterfly like insects.

Other good insect attractants are lupine (which doesn't do too well in Stockton), bee balm which I have seen in other western states but not here, globe thistle, foxglove and globe centaurea.

THE DINOSAUR-BIRD LINK STRENGTHENED

Over the past several years, dinosaur paleontologists have built a case that birds, not reptiles are dinosaurs' closest living relatives by comparing the shapes of arms, shoulders and claws. Now the second group of dinosaurs has been found to have discs of cartilage at the ends of their bones which bear a striking resemblance to the cells of chicken growth plates!

(Science, Vol 262, 24 Dec. 1993)



BIRD OBSERVATIONS

Jan 23 Linda & Steve Stocking ob a Peregrine Falcon along the Calaveras in Stockton. Waldo Holt observed a Harlan's Hawk on Tyler Island in the Delta on January 26. In late January Norm Smith observed 200-300 Yellow-billed Magpies roosting in the Morada area of Stockton. 2-2 Gr Horned Owl N.EIDorado St. Stockton by John Poulus. 2-6 Arnold Whipple and m.o. ob. a Flock of Band-tailed Pigeons at Arnold, Cal. Co. 2-12 Ferruginous Hawk, many Common Mergansers plus Widgeon, Ring-necked and other ducks on pond near corner of Highways 26 and 12, Calaveras Co. by Linda and Steve Stocking. 2-12 Jim Rowth observed a Virginia's Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrows at the west end of Acampo Road. On 2-19 he sighted Varied Thrush and Wh-throated Sparrow at Mickies Grove. 2-19 White-faced Ibis and Wh. Pelicans, etc etc near San Luis Wildlife Wildlife Refuge by the Whipples. 2-20 At and near Smith Nevada many Mt. Bluebirds were observed by Linda and Steve Stocking. 2-24 Karl Kothe observed a Black-shouldered Kite along the Calaveras River in the City of Stockton.

FIELD TRIP REPORT; BY KASEY FOLEY

WHAT A GREAT DAY! Ten of us left the fog shrouded valley to go up to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge where the sun was shining and warm. We saw 62 different species of birds and had a wonderful picnic lunch while listening to a Virginia Rail calling. Among some of the highlights were Golden and Bald Eagles, "ton-o-ducks" including Shoveler, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Pintail, Green Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal and etc., etc., a flock of Long Billed Curlew that most of us saw, a flock of White faced Ibis that John saw. Oh yeah, and that belted kingfisher! What a great day! (Did I already say that?) Don't miss Kasey and Rich's next trip!

MOUNTAIN PLOVER CENSUS REPORT; BY BOB BARNES

3436 Mountain Plovers were counted in California on Saturday, January 29, 1994, on the first, single date, statewide Mountain Plover census. The census was coordinated by the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society. Several Audubon Chapters and their members joined personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Fish & Game in providing census assistance and support. The Mountain Plover census was part of National Audubon's Birds in the Balance migratory bird program.

The county break down for the 3436 Mountain Plovers censused was: Imperial Co., 2119; Kern Co., 2; Los Angeles Co., 36; San Bernardino Co., 118; San Luis Obispo Co. 587; Santa Barbara Co., 27; Solano Co., 242; Tulare Co., 21; Yolo Co., 284. There probably were few if any in San Joaquin County that day, but we did not participate in the inaugural census. Maybe next year. (\$3 fee)

YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION FIELD TRIPS

Calhoun Cut A rarely visited Fish and Game Department Ecological Preserve. Marsh and vernal pools, primarily a plant trip. Meets at 8:15 at Nugget Market, Davis. (\$3)

Muck & Ducks at North Stone Lakes. Meets at refuge gate on Hood Franklin Road at 8. One group will study birdlife, the other will need rubber boots to study the marsh goo and its inhabitants. (\$3. fee)

For further information and information on other trips contact (916)756-7248.

1994 AUDUBON CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS

Audubon has a program of summer camps and workshops in Connecticut, Maine and Wyoming.

Field studies range from geology and marine life, to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, population and renewable energy. For recreation you may explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, or roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. There is also time to explore on your own and to enjoy new friendships. Workshops and camp sessions for adults, 18 years of age or older, run from six to eleven days.

In addition to regular workshop programs, there are sessions for children in Maine; introductory field ecology for educators in Connecticut; field ornithology in Maine; nature photography in Wyoming; and a fascinating array of international adventures from Venezuela to Costa Rica.

For detailed information on dates and rates contact your editor at 465-2729. (Or pick up a catalog at the next San Joaquin Audubon meeting.)

There are also some opportunities for you to be a Natural History Instructor if you have teaching experience in a wide range of natural science areas and ecological disciplines.

Salary plus room and board for 8 weeks.

Student Assistant opportunities are also offered for young people who have a strong interest in the environment. Details available from your editor or, send resume to:

Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops
National Environmental Education Center
National Audubon Society
613 Riversville Road... Greenwich, CT 06831

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