



THE HOOT OWL

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SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH-APRIL 1995 VOL. 33 #2

Saturday, MAR. 11. Cosumnes River Preserve. Monthly bird census. Call John Schick at 464-8304 for details.

Tuesday, MAR. 14. THE BLACK RAILS OF CALIFORNIA. San Joaquin Audubon Monthly Program. Jules Evens probably knows more about this state threatened species than does anyone else in the state. Jules is a research biologist for PRBO and an independent consultant. Black Rails are of particular interest to us because they breed locally within San Joaquin county. Bring a friend. 7:30. Central United Church Just east of Pacific Avenue on Fulton. Across from U.O.P. Ample parking and nearly fresh cookies.

Saturday Mar. 26 Lodi Lake Local Field Trip. Join leader Waldo Holt on a visit to the Lodi Lake Nature Area. This outing begins at 8:30 at the end of Laurel Street on the east side of the Park

TUESDAY APRIL. 11. Central Mexico; From the Highlands to the West Coast Our monthly program will be presented by our own Kasey Foley, Rich Peterson and Jim Rowth. They will present a slide program based on their recent trip which included taking binoculars and field guides, which were donated by our members, to the Queretaro Audubon Society. They also studied Mexican avifauna and will give lively accounts of the birdlife, scenery, and the local peoples. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church, just across Pacific Ave. from U.O.P.

Saturday April 15 Cosumnes River Preserve. (same as above, March 11)
(This census is usually held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.)

Wednesday. April 19. Kiln Canyon in Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area. The birding can be great in the morning this time of year...if you don't mind a few motorcycles zipping around. Call Waldo Holt (462-4438) for details.

EARTH DAY 1995. April 29 at Oak Park Stockton. Call Dave Wagner if you could help out at our booth for an hour, we need you! 943-6997.

Manteca Earth Day: April 22, 9 to 4 in Library Park. If you could help with this call Katherine Holmes 825-2358.

CONSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE ACTIVITIES; The Visitor Center will be open weekends from 10 to 4 . Nature Walks will also be held every Saturday. Call for details. You should call 916-684-2816 to confirm.

OAK GROVE NATURE CENTER; A full schedule of programs is planned. Docents also are planning meetings, field trips and a work day. Call 9538814 for info.

STONE LAKES WILDLIFE REFUGE OPEN TOURING DAYS ARE MAR19 & Ap 9. Opens at 10am, closes at 3. Interstate 5 west on Elk Grove Blvd to end. For confirmation or more information call the U.S.Fish & Wildlife Service at 916-979-2085.

BIRDS:

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RECENT SIGHTINGS (Get out there!)

Jan 15. Jim Rowoth sighted 6 Hooded Mergansers on a pond along Hwy 88. At the Mokelumne River Park he saw an Am. White Pelican, an Osprey and a Spotted Sandpiper. Jan 22 he saw the "Calaveras River levee" Great Tailed Grackle which was first ob by Sue Yee. The grackles are moving north! Jan 24. D. McNeely observed 2 River Otter on the Mokelumne at Woodbridge. Feb. 9; R.C.Brown observed a partial albino Junco and a Coopers Hawk in Stockton, Feb 10 a Hermit Thrush was on Knoles Way in Stockton (SS) Feb 12 a Fox Sparrow was at Mendocino Ave in Stockton (LS). Feb 18 a Spotted Owl at Grant Grove, K.C.N.P. (LS). Feb. 20 Burrowing Owl on east Eight Mile by Steve & Linda Stocking and 2-25 another Varied Thrush on Knoles Way (LS)

BIRDING IN ST.TAMMANY PARISH,LA

On December 31, I was surprised to find myself in the company of two excellent birders doing the Christmas Bird Count for a second time in 1994. One of my companions that day was an ornithologist working for the Corps of Engineers and the other an ophthalmologist from New Orleans. They helped me immeasurably as I picked up 15 "life birds".

I particularly enjoyed spotting a Pine Warbler, a flock of White Ibis, a Carolina Wren and a multitude of White-throated Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was another one that I was able to spot on my own. As I had never seen a rail before, the Sora that walked across the path right in front of us was also a highlight. (Dave Wagner)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

An essay from the latest edition of the Nature Conservancy magazine struck a cord with me as it puts into words so eloquently why everyone should be concerned about the protection of species and ecosystems that sustain them. The following is one of a collection of essays put together by Joseph Barbato and Lisa Weneman. It was written by Linda Hogan at Ria Lagartos and Ria Celestun, Mexico.

"CREATONS"

"Maybe we need new stories, new terms and conditions that are relevant to the love of land, a new narrative that would imagine another way, to learn the infinite mystery and movement at work in the world. And it would mean we would become corn people who are givers of praise and nurturers of creation, lovers of life. There must be nothing that gives us permission to let some lives pass from sight and disappear forever, no acceptance of an end, and we must remember that all places are places of creation.

Indian people cannot be the only ones who remember the agreement with the land, the scared pact to home and care for the life that, in turn, provides for us. We need to reach a hand back through time and a hand forward, stand at the zero point of creation to be certain that we do not create the absence of life, of any species, no matter how inconsequential it might appear to be."

CALIFORNIA WOOD DUCK PROGRAM

Last month we had an excellent program by Steve Simmons who has been putting up Wood Duck nests for the last 22 years. He is a woodshop teacher in Merced but as those of you who attended realize, his enthusiasm has helped to spread the program.

If you would like to know more about the program, help out with it, or make a contribution; CONTACT:

California Waterfowl Association
4630 Northgate Blvd. Suite 150
Sacramento, Ca. 95834.



AUDUBON FIELD NOTES AVAILABLE

Field Notes provides quarterly regional reports on bird sightings from the field, as well as avian migration and population trends. The one year subscription rate of \$25 entitles you to four issues plus the annual Christmas Bird Count. Send \$25 to National Audubon Society Field Notes. P.O. Box 179. Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.



COUNTY LISTING (PART II) W. HOLT

The last issue of the "Hoot Owl" had a article by David Yee, "County Listing/The Big 300 and Protecting the Environment".

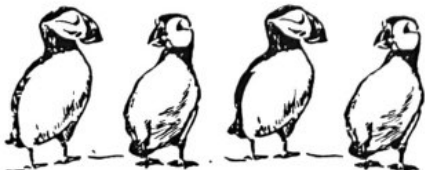
The article was occasioned by the 300th bird species sighted by David within the boundries of San Joaquin County. This is an extraordinary accomplishment that I predict will never again be equalled. The fun in keeping a bird list is in sighting rare or accidental species and David certainly has found more of those than everyone else put together. Some people may think that the sighting of one bird that had accidentally strayed into the county is a frivolous event of trivial importance. I contend that to completly document that rare sighting it is necessary for one to have a solid understanding of the status and distribution of all of the bird species in the County- to realize what is unusual you must first understand what the usual is. Prior to David's field work in the 1980's the status and distribution of birds in San Joaquin County was imperfectly understood.

Because of David's dedication and focus on San Joaquin County most of the pieces of the puzzle are now in place. The "Field Checklist of the Birds of San Joaquin County" that David compiled in 1990 is a representation of that puzzle.

SOME OF THE TOP COUNTY LISTERS;

David Yee	300 (the standard)
Waldo Holt	253
Ray Acker	235
Sue Yee	228
Jim Rowoth	222
Mark Fenner	217
Kasey Foley	209
Dick Erickson	208
George Welch	200
Terry Ronneberg	200
Rich Peterson	195
Steve Stocking	192

(for comparison purposes only)



THREE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORTS:

Stockton's 1994 Christmas Bird Count of the 19th of December began uncomfortably similar to last year's near "fog-out". By early afternoon, however, the clouds parted, and we had reasonably sunny skies. Total species identified was 145, down one from last year: this appeared to be the case in a number of counts in California in December. Nevertheless, we had larger thn usual flocks of robins and starlings, and the normally relatively sparce Varied Thrushes were represented in unusually high numbers. The "best birds" of the count included Townsend's Warblers, a Phainopepla, and a Marbled Godwit (common on the coast, but rare inland) and new-to-the count birds such as Greater Scaup and Yellow Warbler. Although it has been seen twice before, the appearance of two long-eared Owls was exciting as well. Many thanks to all who helped get this count off the ground and to the many counters who took part.

WALLACE-BELLOTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT:

Waldo Holt, the Wallace-Bellota CBC compiler, is happy to report that we set a new record in the number of species observed, 137 species is six more than the old record of 131 set last year. We had high numbers of Western Meadowlarks, and also of Mountain Bluebirds, Western Bluebirds, Varied Thrushes, and American Robins. Thirty-eight people participated in 12 groups. The 54,004 total individuals that were seen is also a new record. Waldo thinks that the new records reflect our increased skill as birders.

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON

This exciting semi-annual event is being planned for May 6. Participants will form teams and attempt to locate as many species of birds as possible within San Joaquin Co. They will also attempt to locate as many sponsors as possible.

What is the point of all this activity, you ask? San Joaquin Audubon has many on-going projects which require money, the least of which has NOT been legal efforts to protect threatened and endangered species right here in San Joaquin County.

To either participate or to sponsor a participant contact one of the co/co:ordinators:

Dave Wagner: 943-6997

Jim Rowoth: 462-7512

THE JOB CREATION ? AND ENHANCEMENT? ACT OF 1995?

You may have heard of this proposed portion of the "Contract with America" but you may not know how devastating it would be to environmental laws and others which protect health and safety. If this passes it will certainly not enhance anything and it is doubtful that it will create any jobs.

What could it do to air pollution control? The risk-assessment requirements of the law would override existing environmental health laws. If the bill had been in effect 20 years ago, the government could never have mandated the removal of lead from gasoline! Proponents say that it would require government reimbursements for a reduction of property value or water rights as a result of implementation of ANY LAW. What about, for example, the laws which restrict or limit in any way timber cutting to protect wildlife and watershed and the long term production of forests? What if the value of an industry is decreased by a law to protect workers from coal dust, cotton dust or from industrial fumes? What about the mines, such as the recently closed gold mine near Sonora, which are now required to restore some of the damage they have done to the land and to keep runoff out of the rivers. We would be going back to the time of the Penn Mine which has done such destruction to the Mokelumne River.

Can you imagine an industry being put in charge of its own risk assessment? Can't anyone recall the problems with DBCP in the plant at Lathrop, the DDT washed from the plant into the Los Angeles Harbor, the creosote which accumulated from the pole treatment plant at our own Stockton Port?

If Congressman Pombo is not able to eviscerate the Endangered Species Act, this proposed law, H.R.9, would do a complete job. It would create loopholes for states and localities to avoid implementation of national health, environmental, and other laws unless the federal government pays the total cost of compliance and implementation. Write or call your Senator, Congressman and President NOW.

>>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 Dennis Smith 1253 S. Tuxedo Stockton, Ca. 95204. 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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