



# THE HOOT OWL

San Joaquin Audubon Society

MARCH-APRIL 1996 VOL. 34 #2

**TUESDAY, MAR 12. General Meeting: The Stone Lakes Refuge;** Presented by Rene Fitzsimons who is very familiar with this new refuge which is on I-5 just before you get to Sacramento. She is the public outreach co:ordinator for the area. 7:30 Central United Methodist Church at Pacific & Fulton Ave. in Stockton. Ample parking & refreshments.

Saturday MAR. 16. Cosumnes Preserve **Bird Census**. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 8:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Saturday. Mar. 23 **Field Trip: Hayward Regional Shoreline**. This will require some walking along the shore of the Bay to check productive areas for shore birds. Meet leader Jim Rowoth at 7:30 at Burns Tower U.O.P. 462-7512.

Tue. Mar. 26. Audubon Board Meeting. Members welcome. Call Nancy at: 476-1926.

**Sat Mar 30-Tue Apl. 2. Western Regional Audubon Conference: Asilomar.**

Friday, April 5. **Field Trip**. To the de Young Museum, San Francisco to see Audubon's Original Watercolors of Birds of America. Will also check out a few local San Francisco birds. Little walking. For the details contact leader Steve Stocking, 465-2729.

**TUESDAY, April 9. General Meeting: Winter Run Salmon & the Mokelumne** Mike Moran of the East Bay Parks & Recreation Department will present this program on disappearing resource. 7:30. Central United Methodist Church at Pacific and Fulton Ample parking. Refreshments and social interaction follow the program.

Saturday APR. 13. Cosumnes Preserve **Bird Census**. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 8:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Saturday **APRIL 13 Field Trip: Foothill Reservoirs for Birds & Wildflowers**

Short walks involved, bring a lunch. Meet leader Steve Stocking (465-2729) at U.O.P. Burns Tower at 7:30 am. This is an introductory trip, relax and check out nature.

Wednesday **APRIL 24 Field Trip; Kiln Canyon**. Walking rather steep hills is a requirement of this investigation of a superior location for spring migrants in the Inner Coast Ranges of San Joaquin County. So give Waldo Holt a call if you want to get out there and add to your "County", or even your "Life List"! (462-4438)

Saturday **MAY 11 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRANT COUNT**. A great way to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day locally. Contact Co:ordinator Jim Rowoth (4627512) for details on this exciting, warm weather, breeding-plumaged, county-wide census.

Saturday **MAY 11 ANNUAL WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING**. This will be the focus of San Joaquin Audubon's 1996 Birdathon Fundraiser. Your pledge this year will be based on the final species count of a team, including David Yee, which will be birding in New Jersey!. More details to follow in the next Hoot Owl.

"It's a magical world.....let's go exploring".....calvin

**PHONE TREE AND LOCAL BIRDING HOTLINE.....STILL IN PLANNING STAGES**

Would you like to know when and where rare birds are sighted in the area? And, or would you like to be informed when issues of local environmental concern are pending? Would you be willing to help with a "phone tree" to disseminate this information if you only had to phore 2 or 3 persons, maximum? If your answer is a resounding "YES", send your name and phone number to our volunteer co:ordinator Cheri Pillsbury at 2351 E. Anita St. Stockton 95205. Phone 462-5490.

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

Virginia Rail and 2 Soras at Cosumnes by Dave Wagner of Jan 6. (Also a Sharp-shinned Hawk on Nov 18)

2 Cooper's Hawks and a Red-shouldered Hawk in her backyard by Nancy Greenwood on 2-15.

2-18 a Boat-tailed Grackle is back on the Calaveras River in West Stockton: Waldo Holt. 2-19 a Bald Eagle on Liberty Rd. by Jim Rowoth.

2-19 along the Calaveras River B.P. (bike path) W. Grebe, Gr.back Heron, Kesrel, Brown & R.S. Towhee, Db.Cr Cormorant etc. by the Stockings, in their backyard there were 113 crows "mobbing" a red-shouldered Hawk on 2-23 and 2-24 many Robins, Cedar waxwings, Yl.rumped warblers were eating privit fruit. Nuttalls Woodpecker, Northern Flicker and Scrub Jay also present. The jay hid a seed on a tree limb and then covered the seed with moss.



### "BIG GREEN GROUPS TODAY BELIEVE:"

1. All life is equal. Plants, animals, insects and other creatures have the same inalienable rights as humans.
2. Private Property Rights should be abolished.
3. Truth is secondary to achieving a goal.
4. Objective science likewise.
5. Religions must be indoctrinated with and support environmental dogma.
6. Nature's way is best.
7. A world government with international green police must enforce global environmental standards.
8. Human populations must be radically reduced.
9. Economic growth should be reversed.

( From the "Land Rights Letter" quoted in the S.J.County Citizens Land Alliance Alert Jan 96.)

Do "they" really believe that "we" believe this? If so, our outreach section has not been doing a good job. Maybe these are the people we should invite to our meetings and fieldtrips?

## GOLDEN TROUT NATURAL HISTORY

Backpack to this workshop at a camp located at 10,000 feet near Mt. Whitney. Naturalist interpreted week sessions in July. For a free brochure call 909-798-3060.

## U.C. 1996 RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS

Your participation and tax-deductible contributions make the research possible. Studied include; Monkeys and manatees of Costa Rica, Foxes of Santa Cruz Island, Pelicans of Baja or birds of Belize, and cloud forest plants of the Andes. For information and a free catalog contact: University Research Expeditions Program Tel: (510) 642-6586.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT;

Five local birders gathered at Burns Tower early on Feb. 3 for our outing to San Mateo Co. We thumbed our noses at the menacing rain clouds and proceeded to the Palo Alto Baylands, on route we picked up three other birders. At the small duck pond near the entrance we had good looks at a variety of wintering ducks, including side-by-side views of both scaups.

By late morning, we headed over to the nearby visitor's center and attached boardwalk, looking for rails. The trip had been planned to coincide with the winter high tides; the rising waters tend to flush these notoriously shy marsh-dwellers out of cover and make them more visible to birders. Through the rain, we espied a clapper on the far edge of the pool and all joined in a quiet celebratory rail dance. What would normally have been about a ten-minute walk turned into an hour-plus crawl. We were surrounded by Clapper rails, some as tame as barnyard chickens, what a treat.

Flushed with excitement, we returned to the parking lot and lunch, and then headed to the southern part of the preserve for the final leg of the trip. This area has extensive hiking and jogging trails and is more heavily peopled as a result. Highlights here were the night heron rookery, moorhens, and upclose looks at more ducks, most notably, both species of goldeneyes. Jim Rowoth.

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### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Recently John Flicker assumed the office of President of the National Audubon Society. At that time, he set in motion a plan of reorganization of members who are committed advocates for birds, wildlife and habitat. One specific change has occurred that is to help state programs to become more effective. To that end, Dan Taylor, with 17 years of experience working for Audubon, has been selected Executive Director of the California Field Office. His mandate is to "increase overall effectiveness for conservation by: focusing efforts on clearly defined habitat protection objectives for birds and other wildlife, working in close partnership with our chapters, to improve our communications to the public and among ourselves about our issues and programs."

As a friend of birds and other wildlife, this effort comes none too soon. After all, the benefits will also enhance life for all the humans in this state. Let us wish Dan Taylor well!

If you would like to become a more active advocate, please contact a Board member. Or come to a Board meeting, the next is to be Mar. 26. 6:30 5149 Gadwall Circle, Stockton

### NO ON 197:

Again a ballot measure with confusion as to what a yes or no vote really means. But the Department of Fish and Game can already, and DOES NOW control dangerous mountain lions. So this measure would do more harm than good.



### THE MONEY GAME

According to an audit of the Department of Fish and Game, hunters and fishermen pay an average of \$35 per year to the DFG while resident taxpayers contribute an average of only 11cents apiece.

That means outdoorsmen are paying nearly 100% of the costs for endangered-species management, oil-spill cleanup, toxic-spill inspection, stream-bed permits and other non-game management and administrative costs to the State.

We should not complain about the small fees we are asked to pay at wildlife areas!

### STONE LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Spring excursions include "Vernal Pool Vistas" on Sunday Apl. 14, "Celebrate Spring" on Apl.20 "International Migratory Bird Day" on May 11, and "Raucous Rookeries" on June 1. Sundays, Mar 17 and April 14 the refuge will be open for touring from 10 to 2. Reservations are required for excursions, but not for touring. Call: 916/979-2085.

### "GOLD RUSH CITY & THE HAWK"

You may be following the ongoing saga of "Gold Rush City", then again you may not. Visualize a new city of 30,000 in 11,000 new homes off to the right as you drive from Stockton to Tracy. Gold Rush City is only part of the "West Lathrop Specific Plan which has now been approved by the existing small city of Lathrop. Now shut your eyes and visualize a new town right there on I-5 near where it crosses the San Joaquin River. What an appropriate location for the next step in the process of a sprawl even greater than that which covered the Santa Clara Valley.

A source of water & of sewage treatment, as well as levee improvements, and new highway interchanges all are questions. But our system is set up to allow these plans to go ahead with the hope that such "details" can be worked out later.

One detail which was worked out ahead of the project was what to do to preserve habitat for the Swainson's Hawks which nest in the area. The settlement reached will provide 2,800 acres from which all wildlife will benefit. A part of this will be 858 acres along Paradise Cut which will be deeded to the Department of Fish and Game which participated in the negotiations. Money is also to be provided to manage the preserved habitat.

How did this all come about? Our Chair for Conservation, Waldo Holt brought suit against the City of Lathrop with the claim that their plan did not adequately address wildlife, specifically the threatened Swainson Hawk. This he did on his own, not as the Audubon Conservation Chair. Our congratulations to Waldo, without his concern and his persistence this agreement would not have been reached!

## HOW MISINFORMATON IS PROPAGATED;

"The Stockton Record reports that local bird watching enthusiasts have begun their annual Christmas bird count near Woodbridge in San Joaquin County. "

"The binocular armed bird watchers were delighted to report spotting a never before seen Red Phalarope. Will the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shut down the north end of San Joaquin County? Stay tuned."

**From:** "Alert, January 1996, newsletter of "San Joaquin County Citizens Land Alliance"

(Is it that we have done a poor job of telling the public about how and why an endangered species is designated? Or is this part of an agenda developed by those who want to have the public confused about endangered species and their protection? Just because a lost bird stumbles into San Joaquin County does not mean that it, or its less navigationally unimpaired relatives will be designated as endangered.)

### Stockton Audubon Society

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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 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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Join us for the

## National Audubon Society's 1996 Western Regional Conference

Asilomar, California

March 30 - April 2



### Birds, Wildlife & Habitat:

*Building a culture of conservation*

Make plans to attend the National Audubon Society's 1996 Western Regional Conference, March 30 - April 2 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula in Pacific Grove, California. Interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, exhilarating field trips and stimulating discussions will focus on Audubon's commitment to birds, wildlife and habitat and building a culture of conservation necessary to provide for their long-term protection.

Distinguished speakers will include Audubon's President John Flocker, noted ornithologist and Audubon's chief scientist Frank Gill, American Bird Conservancy President George Fenwick, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology Director John Fitzpatrick.

Scheduled highlights include a Mono Lake retrospective and celebration, a living history performance by Dave Geison on the life and career of John James Audubon, and presentations by Steve Kress, celebrated Puffin researcher and author.

The conference offers field trips to some of the most beautiful landscapes and bird-rich habitats in North America, including a rare opportunity to visit Fort Ord, a closed military reserve with 57,000 acres of hidden natural treasures.

Workshop topics will include Backyard Habitat Enhancement, Ornithological Research, Environmental Education, and chapter officer leadership training.

Young people are welcome to participate in age-appropriate youth programs, one for ages 3-12, and another for ages 13-17. Special activities and field trips are scheduled for each age group.

Registration for the Conference is \$60 for adults and \$20 for youth (3-17, including the youth programs). Field trips are \$30-\$40 extra. Housing at Asilomar starts at \$212 (\$133 for children) per person for three nights, and includes 9 meals. Alternative off-ground housing and camping are also available nearby.

If you need a registration form or more information, please contact the California Field office at (916) 481-5332.