

THE HOOT OWL



March / April 2011
Issue 2, Volume 49

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

PROGRAMS

The meeting location is at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY, March 8
John and (maybe) Kathy Schick
"Birding the Big Island of Hawaii"

John and Kathy Schick spent two weeks on the big island of Hawaii over Christmas 2010. They saw lots of birds, whales and did other fun things. They will share their trip with you.

John is now a full-time professor of law at Humphreys College Law School in Stockton. John also leads monthly bird censuses at the Cosumnes River Preserve which is in its 23d year. Anyone is welcome to come on these censuses which are on the second Saturday of each month. Kathy is an adjunct professor of biology at Delta College and a museum assistant at UC Berkeley. She also volunteers as a science instructor for primary school students at Alex Spanos Elementary School in Stockton.

TUESDAY, April 12
John Sterling
"Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, and Beyond"

John will be presenting a program on his trip to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Tierra del Fuego, and the Buenos Aires area in central Argentina. He will show lots of photos of birds with a few shots of scenery and marine mammals.

John has been birding in CA since 1971 and has been a professional wildlife biologist since 1981. Work has taken him to Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Russia and Canada, but he has been able to travel to bird in Kenya, China, Thailand and Argentina for fun. John's professional positions have been with research units of the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State University, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Jones & Stokes and HT Harvey & Associates (the latter two are environmental consulting firms). John is now happily self-employed with more free time for birding around the state.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, March 5—*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.

SUNDAY, March 6—*Grizzly Island*

Let's check out Grizzly Island Wildlife Area and see what we can find. March is an in-between-seasons month, so we'll see what lingering winter birds are still around along with the year-round residents. Bring a lunch for this Solano Co adventure. Meet leader Jim Rowoth at the Park-n-Ride at I-5 and Hwy 12 @ 7:00 for carpooling.

SATURDAY, March 12—*Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader John Schick for his monthly bird census walk through this excellent habitat. The walk covers about four miles and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. Meet John at the visitor center at 6:00 a.m. To get there, take I-5 north to Twin Cities Rd., go east to Franklin Blvd., then south on Franklin to the visitor center. Please call John in advance at 464-8304 to confirm date and time.

SATURDAY, March 19—*Woodbridge Regional Park*

It's been a long time since we've visited this lovely little riparian woodland on the Mokelumne River—mainly because it is closed to the general public. San Joaquin Audubon has recently acquired access to the park to conduct a monthly census. Meet leader Dave Wagner at Toot Sweets at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. For more info call Dave at 943-6997.

Wednesday, March 30—*Round Valley Regional Preserve*

Join leader John Blades for this mid-week trip to one of his favorite spots. It will afford a great chance to view raptors, especially Golden Eagles, and will preview foothill birds. We will walk for about two to three hours through this beautiful valley in the lee of Mt Diablo. You could plan to stay for lunch. Meet at Toot Sweets at 7:00 a.m. for carpooling, or meet John at the entrance to Round Valley at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, April 2—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

See entry for Saturday, March 5. Join leader TBD at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, April 9—*River Bend Ranch*

Join leader Joanne Katanic for a visit to this private ranch in eastern San Joaquin County. There is some nice riparian habitat

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FIELD TRIPS

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along the Calaveras River and Mormon Slough which cut through the ranch. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Morada Ranch shopping center, Morada Lane and Highway 99. Park in front of the Golden 1 Credit Union.

SATURDAY, April 9—Cosumnes River Preserve

See entry for March 12. Join John Schick as he conducts his monthly "River Walk" survey at this regional gem in southern Sacramento County. Meet John at the Visitor's Center at 6:15 a.m.

SATURDAY, April 16—Woodbridge Regional Park

See entry for March 19. Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for our new monthly field trip to this delightful little park on the banks of the Mokelumne River.

WEDNESDAY, April 20—Kiln Canyon Hummingbirds

Join leader John Blades for our annual mid-week pilgrimage to this hummingbird mecca in the foothills west of Tracy. Meet in the parking lot at Toot Sweets near the northwest corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Drive at 7:00 a.m. to carpool, or at the entrance to Carnegie SVRA (18600 Corral Hollow Rd., southwest of Tracy) at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, April 23—Del Puerto Canyon

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264) for this visit to scenic Del Puerto Canyon. We will be on the lookout for spring migrants and local specialties. Bring lunch and drinks as we will be picnicking at Frank Raines Park. Meet in the parking lot at Toot Sweets (corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Dr. in Stockton) at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling, or at the start of Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (just west of I-5 at Diablo Grande Parkway/Patterson exit) at 8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, April 27—Seven Falls Trail

Join leader John Blades for another mid-week visit to one of his favorite places. This is a beautiful hike up the north side of Mt. Diablo, encompassing several life zones with plenty of birds to see. If you like Mitchell Canyon this one will impress. Leave Stockton @ 7:00 a.m. for the 1 hour drive to Clayton, west on Hwy 4, then along Marsh Creek Road. When you get to Clayton (watch your speed!), turn left at the first stoplight, which is Regency Drive, and go to the end of the road. Parking is obvious. If you want to go to the falls, bring a snack or lunch and plan to be on the trail for about three plus hours. For more info contact John at 473-7073.

SATURDAY, April 30—Delta Meadows State Park

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264) for a visit to this undeveloped and relatively unknown gem of a state park at the confluence of the Mokelumne and Sacramento rivers in Walnut Grove. This should be a great spot for observing spring migrants. Bring mosquito repellent as there is a lot of habitat for both birds and insects alike! Expect a 3 mile out-and-back hike over level surface.

NANCY GREENWOOD REMEMBERED

July 3, 1912 - Feb. 15, 2011

"Nancy Greenwood, longtime member, officer and supporter of San Joaquin (Stockton) Audubon, died last Tuesday at the age of 98. Nancy loved birds. She had many feeders in her backyard, and fed peanuts to a "pet" Scrub Jay. She even had a collection of bird figurines. Nancy may have been one of the last to see a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the Calaveras River near U.O.P. She enjoyed both birds and wildflowers and went on field trips with both the Audubon Society and the California Native Plant Society for as long as she was able. She went on many Christmas bird counts, including the first Wallace-Bellota count.

Nancy was a native of the Stockton area. She attended and graduated from UOP, receiving an MA in Botany, and taught at Pacific for a while before she married Joe Greenwood, who taught physics at Stockton College. They had two sons, John and Tom. After Joe died she returned to teaching at Delta College (then Stockton College) where she taught botany and biology."

—Steve Stocking

I noticed with sadness Nancy's passing in the Record recently. I only knew her in her post-Delta College days during her activities with Audubon. She was always so enthusiastic and positive about nature and life in general. I remember one of--if not my first--CBC's with her and Bruce Williford in the Thornton area (Area 14) in the 1980s. She described the voice of Bushtits as "sparks", which I still refer to this day. She showed me the Burrowing Owls that resided at the intersection of Davis and Eight Mile Roads--now long since gone. She was a great resource on our birding outings whenever anyone had any questions about the plants we encountered. She was our cheerful long-time hospitality chair for our GM meetings. Nice, nice lady--I'm so glad I had the chance to know her.

—Jim Rowoth

It is so sad to hear of Nancy's passing. I can tell you that she had a under-appreciated (at least I was unaware of it) sense of humor. At one of our general membership meetings she shared some remarks with me about women and chocolate and that's all I can say in mixed company but I remember laughing so hard I had tears in my eyes. She was a wonderful woman.

—Kasey Foley

CRANES IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

With the current unrest on the Korean Peninsula there is concern about what will happen to two species of rare cranes which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In the absence of farming, cranes have returned to the western portion of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). A third of the world's 2,800 Red-crowned Cranes, and half of the 5,000 surviving White-naped Cranes, winter in this "no-man's land". It is ironic that they are threatened both by the possibility that the two Koreas could reunite, and also by the other possibility of war there. With the joining of the two countries there would be great pressure to develop the area. There have been international efforts made to leave some rice fields unplowed after harvest in areas of North Korea to provide good habitat for cranes. Many of these cranes winter in the DMZ. But all of these efforts and others to protect cranes will be for naught if war returns to Korea. (Adapted from National Wildlife June-July 2010)

CROWS REMEMBER

"Biologists wearing caveman masks while banding wild crows have found that as much as four years later, the birds loudly scold an individual who approaches them while wearing the mask. The birds ignored the same person wearing a Vice President Dick Cheney mask, which no one had worn while handling the birds." (Shows you how smart crows really are! -ed.) The study was led by a University of Washington biologist who said that this memory helps to protect the birds from danger. (From National Wildlife, June-July 2010)

Provided by Education Chair, Steve Stocking

Birding 101

Delta College is again offering *Birding 101*, instructed by Jim Rowoth, for 5 Saturdays this spring, starting February 26. We'll discuss birding as an activity and the tools and tricks of the trade, learn some interesting facts about our local birds, and work on learning how to identify them in the field and when and where to find them by visiting local birding sites. Sign up on line at: <http://www.adultedreg.com/delta/>, and click on "For the Birds". Contact Jim at rowoth@sbcqglobal.net if you have further questions.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Mid-December, 2010 - February 15, 2011
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On an afternoon work break, December 23rd, Jim Rowoth heard some **Red Crossbills** in Stockton. He was not able to relocate them.

David Yee found an adult **Whooper Swan** among 2000 Tundra Swans on the King Island section of Eight Mile Road, January 9th. It was near a **Bewick's Swan**. On the 14th, David went out looking for the Whooper Swan, it was not found, but he saw at least three **Bewick's Swans**.

During the Wallace-Bellota Christmas bird count, January 2nd, David Yee found what he identified as a probable **Arctic Loon** on Camanche reservoir. On the 22nd, he again located the putative Arctic Loon and also a **Pacific Loon**.

February 1st, Cheri Pillsbury saw a green **Painted Bunting** at her backyard feeders; it continues to be seen by many people. Jon Dunn, who saw the bird, thinks it is probably a first year male. If it is a male, the blue head feathers and red breast feathers often start appearing in February.

Linda Pittman photographed a retuning **Harlan's Hawk**, February 15th. She saw it on Thornton Rd. just north of Peltier Rd., the location of one seen during the Central Valley Bird Symposium in 2009.

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New website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

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San Joaquin Audubon COZC220Z
Attn: Membership
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Stockton, CA 95267

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