

BIRDING IN THE HILLS OR ON THE COAST? (Insect repellents)

Deet-containing insect repellents applied to the skin or clothing can help prevent mosquito and tick bites, but deet may cause allergic and toxic effects in children and adults, especially when used on the skin repeatedly in high concentrations. Wearing protective clothing treated with permethrin in addition to using deet on exposed skin provides the greatest degree of protection against mosquito and tick bites.

(The Medical Newsletter)

A FEW BIRD SIGHTINGS

3-29 Dave Wagner sighted a Blk-backed Wood-pecker at Kingsbury grade, Lake Tahoe.
4-15 at Potwish & Buckeye Flat in Sequoia Natl. Park, Bullocks Oriole, Blk-Headed Grosbeak, L. Goldfinch, Wh-th Swift, Ash-th. Flycatcher Cm. Mergansers by S. Stocking.
Also Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Nashville Warb. & R.F. Towhee, trail to Garfield Grove on 4-16 with Rich Boubelik.
Also a Lewis Woodpecker in Madera Co hills on 4-17. 4-25, Hermit Warbler at Stockton Rural Cemetary by Jim Rowoth. In April Doug Height has observed many Canadian Geese nesting on Camanche, stilts, eagles and osprey are also in the area of the shrunken lake.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS BY WALDO HOLT

April 11 15 people, including a few from Modesto, visited Lodi Lake. The highlight was observing 30 warblers taking a bath. These included Ylw. Rump, Orange Crowned, Blk-throated Grey, and Nashville.
April 22 a small group saw 5 (five) species of hummers, the most numerous being Rufous and Caliope with Anna's and Blk. chinned. A female Costa's sat on a branch for a minute in front of the group. Waldo claims to have seen an 18' rattlesnake.

REPORTS FROM THE BIRDATHON

Magic moments for Dave Wagner, Kurt Mize and Jeff Ryan included the unexpected sighting of 2 wild turkeys, a great-horned owl with two fledglings in a cliff-side nest and a nest with two golden eagles all in Del Puerto Canyon.

Waldo, Kim and Vic started around three in the morning and spent a rewarding and exhausting day within San Joaquin County. They found 130 species and deserve a round of applause.

Other teams led by Steve Stocking and David Yee and John Blades have not yet reported in, but a known to be in the vicinity.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

WHY WE SUPPORT WETLANDS

Historically, when early settlers arrived in the Valley, it teemed with diverse and abundant fish and wildlife. The sky on sunny days was often reportedly darkened by the flights of millions of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds attracted to the Valley's massive seasonal and permanent wetlands. Rivers seethed with spawning salmon and steelhead, and were lined a mile or more thick with jungle-like riparian forests. Incredible herds of tule elk pronghorn antelope and deer roamed the Valley.

Today, largely because of agricultural conversion and flood control, the Valley is much different. Only 5% of the wetlands and less than 2% of the riparian forests remain. Most fish populations are down 80 to 90%. There is an ever-growing list of endangered and threatened species, many of which are dependent on shrinking wetland and riparian habitats.

LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT

Don Edwards (D-Ca) recently introduced H.R. 4255, titled the Wetlands Reform Act of 1992. Audubon played a key role in drafting this bill, which is designed to strengthen federal protection for wetlands while addressing complaints of regulatory uncertainty and delays which have been leveled against current wetlands regulations. H.R. 4255 would also delay implementation of the Administrations "manual" which would remove a minimum of 50% of the nation's wetlands, pending completion of a study by the National Academy of Sciences. We urge that you lobby your representative to cosponsor this bill.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

San Francisco State is offering short courses at their field campus near the Sierra Buttes for college credit. Contact Jim Steele at (415) 338-1571 or 738-1814 for further information. Audubon has summer, fall and winter workshops and camps all over. From Field Ornithology in Maine to Nature Photography in Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. (203) 869-2017.



SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION has many great seminars including Grant Grove Wildflowers on June 20 and 21. Call your editor, the instructor, at 465-2729 if interested in any of these.

SINCE THE FIRST EARTH DAY

As one of the few persons around here who was active at the time of the first Earth Day I have been asked to reflect on what changes have occurred during the over twenty years of heightened environmental awareness. On a most positive note it is gratifying to see how many more people are involved in various national, state and local organizations than were at that time. But then, there are a lot more people and that is still the big problem. Certainly the environmental situation has changed in the last 25 years since I first became involved.

Cars are cleaner and lighter, but as with people there are a lot more of them so the air pollution problem has not gone away in areas where the population is on the increase. We recycle a lot more material, but there is lots more to recycle and the successful, meaningful recycling of plastics is a long way off. More markets are needed for recycled materials or it is unlikely that recycling will expand. Landfills are more environmentally friendly, they are encouraging recycling but are still filling up fast.

We are more careful about the chemicals which we use, but we still use more than are really necessary for killing "weeds and pests". Our county still has no real method to deal with toxic chemical leftovers, but does a much better job of cleaning up chemical spills and bringing the "perps" to justice. Even so some local business interests have complained that the District Attorney has come down too hard on some of the chemical polluters. We still have not solved the problem of cleaning up old chemical accumulations such as are found at old mine dumps and landfills. The poisoning of the Mokelumne by the old mine at Camanche is a prime example locally.

We are treating our waste water more completely, but more is being produced. When there is a problem it can be big, like recently at San Diego. But in much of the world there is little treatment and the results can come to us. Shrimp from polluted water in Peru became part of airline food and led to over 76 cholera cases in the States. With the drought and the big increase in California population there are still fierce arguments over water. San Joaquin County has one full time employee who does nothing but negotiate for new sources for our growing population. He has his eye on new canals and dams to bring water from the Stanislaus, Mokelumne, American, and others. But others covet those waters as well. Even the Peripheral Canal has not gone away but rears its water sucking head on many occasions.

We have plans to cover up more of our farmland with both expanding cities and five proposed new towns. Back then Senator Garamendi was trying to protect farmland, and now Senator Johnston is trying to protect some of the remaining land of the Delta. But at the same time others are trying to weaken the Williamson Act by having it give tax breaks to the developers of golfcourses and equestrian centers in addition to the legitimate agricultural lands.

Forestry legislation was under review then as it is now. The Mining Act of 1872 is still in force. Then President Reagan, with the help of V.P. Bush was trying to relax regulations protecting wetlands from draining. Now it's V.P. Quayle trying to relax both endangered species and wetland protection.

California now has a population of about 30 million and grows by 800,000 a year. Some of these will certainly come to San Joaquin County. How do we find the resources, land, water, energy and provide the waste and sewage disposal for everybody? How do we accommodate growth and preserve open space, clean air and clean water? Who pays for all the new services which are needed, the new streets and highways, the new schools, social services and parks? Parks are increasing fees and cutting hours, a wonderful area given to the County for a park is being divided up and sold off for rural ranches. When there isn't enough money, what gets cut first?

But, compared with many other areas of the world, we are in good shape because our population is not growing as rapidly and our economy is more healthy. Here we use so many resources that other countries are impacted for materials which we import. The population of the world is at about 5.3 billion and growing by 100 million annually.

So it can't hurt to work to protect old growth forests, stop global warming, encourage biodiversity and protect prime farmland. It's good to recycle and to use fewer resources. More people do seem to be concerned with various aspects of the environment, if they are employed. But it's the same old bottom line as it was in 1970. We need effective family planning worldwide and the U.S. should be supporting such efforts. Also efforts are needed to encourage economic and social development in the "Less Developed Countries. This results in lower levels of fertility, a stronger economy and less stress to the environment. We depend upon the earth and our numbers are causing more abuse than back in 1970.

I am no different than many others who became involved in this environmental effort back in 1970. Perhaps the only difference is that I am more stubborn and so am still involved. I have faith that people still can make this a better place for coming generations. But greed has to go.

Steve Stocking, April 1992, Earth Day

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Officers:

President: John Blades
473-7073

President Elect:

David Wagner
Secretary: Nancy
Ballot 465-9461

Treasurer: Jim
Rowoth 462-7512

Board Members:

Terry Ronneberg
Steve Stocking
Kasey Foley
Dennis Smith

Chairmen:

Editor: S. Stocking
Programs: D. Yee

Field Trips: David Yee

Conservation: Waldo Holl

Membership: Terry Ronneberg

Historian:

Education: J. Gaia & E. Johnson

Hospitality: Nancy Greenwood

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 will receive a one-year subscription of **Outdoor California** mag. 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

STONE LAKES NWR
After three years of work this new refuge proposed for southwestern Sacramento County is about to become reality. Funding for the refuge is included in the President's budget. The refuge will protect 20,000 acres of wildlife habitat. Audubon's 550 acre Upper Beach Lake Wildlife Habitat Project is within the refuge boundaries.

GOSHAWK NEEDS PROTECTION

This rare species of the forests needs protection from the effects of logging. A suit has been filed to protect this predator which is an indicator species for the health of mature pine forest. The Forest Service has been urged to pay attention to mounting evidence that this impressive bird is threatened.

One recent study showed that the historic population of 260 pair on the north rim of the Grand Canyon had dropped to 27 in 1990. The Forest Management Act calls for the preservation of biodiversity. It is not just the Spotted Owl in danger from poor management practices.

The lawsuit was filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on behalf of The Wilderness Society, Forest Guardians, 2 Chapters of the Sierra Club and three Chapters of the Audubon Society.

PROVEN ONCE AGAIN

The Forest Service, in a study in western Montana, found that a diversity of habitat leads to a diversity of bird species. They also found that tree dependent species are most impacted by logging! They recommend that to encourage these species the cutting units should be small, some snags from both the broadleaf, and "commercial" species should be left and that unburned slash piles provide good habitat.

>>>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)

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY
236 West Knoles Way
Stockton, CA. 95204

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Stockton, CA.
Permit No. 450