



# THE HOOT OWL

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 1993

VOL 31 #3

**Thur. May 13th. 7pm. Stockton Planning Commission, Stockton General Plan Hearing at Civic Auditorium. Great Turnout Needed. Protect your Habitat! Contact Waldo Holt at 462-4438.**

**Sat. May 15th. SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON PICNIC AND BIRDWALK AT LODI LAKE. The Picnic is from 8 to 10 and the Polluck from 10 to 11:30. Bird-A-Thon results. Bring your own hot drink and a breakfast dish to share. Meet at the Hughes Beach area. Park outside free, or inside for \$3. Share a ride! Nancy Ballot for info at 4761926**

**Sun. May 23ed. Mt. Diablo, Mitchell Canyon area near Clayton. Fine birding in a great park area. Spring flowers as well as nesting birds. Call leaders Jim Rowoth at 462-7512 or Terry Ronneburg at 835-7847 in Tracy for more information.**

**Sat. June 12th. Cosumnes River Bird Census. Call John Schick at 464-8304.**

**Tue. June 15. Board Meeting at home of Terry Ronneburg in Tracy. Call Dave Wagner at 946997 for further information.**

**Sat. June 26. Big Trees State Park Bird Stroll. Should be an abundance of both the spring wildflowers and nesting birds of the lower mountains. We will meet at Burn's Tower at 7:30am. Bring a lunch and be prepared for several short strolls. State Park entrance fee. Call leader Steve Stocking for information 465-2729.**

## **THE THIRD ANNUAL BURROWING OWL SURVEY; BETWEEN May 15 and July 15.**

**A total of only 238 pair of Burrowing Owls were found at 264 breeding locations in 73 blocks during the 1991 census in California.**

**1992 data now being analyzed indicates that a rapidly declining small population may recommend a "Threatened" status for the Burrowing Owl in our State.**

**If the recent Stockton Record article which stated the colony at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds is "STANDING IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS" and should be moved is any indication, the owls are in a heap of trouble here.**

**Call Co:ordinator David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337 or Asst. Co:ordinator Waldo Holt at 462-4438 if you would like to help to census a block of our area.**

## **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT NOW BEING ELIMINATED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY.**

**Many changes are being planned to get the County Budget down as the State cuts its funding to the counties. But it looks like the elimination of this Unit is unnecessary and the cuts are being used as a smoke screen to eliminate a very effective law enforcement arm which more than covers its costs by the fines taken in.**

**The pink slips have already been sent to the two attorneys who have been putting teeth into local environmental enforcement for the first time. Dumpers of toxics, polluters and poachers will have little to fear if there is to be no enforcements, no fines. Some influential members of the local business community have been critical of this unit stating that it helped to make the climate look bad and so discouraged industries from locating here.**

**They should be more concerned about the health and welfare of our local citizens. They should know that a polluted environment does nothing to draw and keep employment. We are going backwards to how it was here 10 to 20 years ago when the environmental laws were flaunted. Contact your County Supervisor now to express your concern. They are at 468-2350 (San Joaquin County Court House, Stockton, Ca. 95202).**

# BIRDS

National Audubon Society

P R E S E N T S

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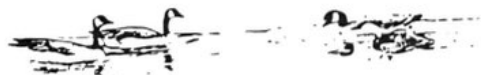
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RTP93



## SHRIKE SHORTAGE

It's been nearly 3 years since scientists sounded an alarm over the worldwide decline of amphibians. That mystery has not been solved as along comes a new concern: the vanishing shrike. Most of the 30 species of this predatory bird are on the decline.

A meeting of 200 scientists from 26 countries was held in January, but no one answer has been found. In some areas it is tied to changing use of agricultural land. Shrikes are an excellent "indicator species" (like Spotted Owl) as they are "top predators" of the grassland foodchain. Much research remains to be done.

(Science, Jan 22, 1993. pg 460)

2-20, Eve. Grosbeaks, Am Goldfinch, Pine Siskin at back yard feeder in Stockton which was also visited by Coopers Hawk. Elsie Smith. 3-4, One Yellow-headed Blackbird in flock of other blackbirds plus Lewis Woodpeckers at Salt Spring Res. A. & C. Whipple. 3-10 L. Golden Plover at Lodi Sewer Ponds by J. Rowth. 3-13 on the great S.J. Audubon fieldtrip to Sunrise Ranch we saw 56 species including the following which were recorded by N. Greenwood.: Am. Wh. Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wh. Faced Ibis, Ross Goose, Gadwall, Bl. B. Plover, Dunlin, L. B. Curlew, Tri-colored Blackbird, Sandhill Crane, many Marsh Wrens & many vernal pools in flower. 3-20 Stockton Rural Cemetery (SRC) Pine Siskins and Varied Thrush by J. Rowth. 3-21 Fox Sparrow, BG Gnatcatcher, OC Warblers at Lodi Lake, J. Rowth. 3-27, N. Oriole, RB Nuthatch, Swainson's Hawk, Hammond's Flycatcher, Rufous Hummer, Pine Siskins RB Sapsucker at SRC by J. Rowth. 3-27 Swainson Hawk checking nest site, Stockton. S. Stocking. 3-28 at Lodi Lake a House Wren, Lincoln's & Fox Sparrows, Varied & Hermit Thrush & BG Gnatcatcher by J. Rowth. Mar. 30 a White-headed Woodpecker at Arnold and Bald and Golden Eagles at Salt Springs. By A. & C. Whipple. 4-3 at SRC a pr N. Orioles, a pr RB Nuthatches, PS Flycatcher, and a Hermit Thrush by J. Rowth. 4-7 at Harney Ln. Landfill, many snipe, yellowlegs, mallard cinnamon teal, Gr. Winged teal, & 2 Moorhen by S. Stocking. 4-8, B. Kingfisher at Stagi Farms by S. Stocking, 4-10 Tricolored Blk birds, Marsh Wren at Harney Lane Landfill, Swainson Hawk in Morada & Stockton, Holt & Stocking. 4-14, a Blk-th Grey Warbler in Stockton yard. Dave Wagner. 4-16 80 D. Cr. Cormorants over Harney Lane Landfill, in 2 "v's" going north. 4-17. Blk Chin. Hummer in Stockton yard. N. Greenwood. 4-18 at SRC BG Gnatcatcher, pr Warb Vireo, Chipping Sparrows, YR, OC, Wilson's, Nashville, Blk. throated Grey Warblers by J. Rowth. 4-20. Blk Head Grosbeak, G. Cr. Sparrow & White Cr. Sparrow in Stockton yard. Elsie Smith. 4-23, Bullock's Oriole & Lewis Woodpecker at Telegraph City Rd. A. & C. Whipple. 4-23 a Swainson nesting in U.O.P. area. S. Stocking. 4-24 Kiln Canyon, R.C. Sparrow, Calloipe Hummer, Lazuli Bunting, MacG. Warbler, etc. J. Rowth, & W. Holt. 4-24. Coopers Hawk Lewis Woodpecker, R.C. Sparrow, P1. Titmouse, W. B. Nuthatch, W. Bluebird, Horned Lizard, G. Eagle, Bewick & House Wren. M. happy Ob. 4-29, 2 Blk. Headed Grosbeak, Stockton Yard by Linda Stocking.

## WESTERN TIMBER; IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT OWLS, OR TREES

Only 10% of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests remain, and all of it is on public lands. Preservation of this remaining area is an economic as well as an environmental necessity. Commercial and sport-fishing employs more workers than the timber industry. These groups estimate that 60,000 jobs related to salmon fishing are in jeopardy if logging of the ancient forest continues unabated. The logging erodes hillsides causing siltation of salmon streams. So they say that the issue is JOBS vs JOBS. The timber industry has blamed the bird, as well as the federal government and us "preservationists" all to shift the attention away from industry management decisions.

### CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- (1) In the last 10 years, the timber industry has increased production by 16%--yet with 15% fewer workers.
- (2) Ancient forests on National lands have been logged for 100 years. Those which are left are more remote and harder to log, increasing the industry's cost.
- (3) The industry has reduced investments in new technology on the Pacific Coast, while investing in Mexico, the southeast United States and elsewhere.

Yes, the timber industry has suffered, but not for the reason it states. Most of the losses have been due to automation of timber mills and of raw log exports which are not milled here, but sent directly to Japan and to other Pacific Rim countries. Between 1979 and 1988, 195 mills closed, and over 25,000 jobs were lost, mostly due to these causes. Jobs in the timber industry in the west have been decreasing and mills closing since 1955 long before there was any concern about the Spotted Owl. If we don't confront the real problems, we will not achieve real solutions.

**CONTACT THE PRESIDENT BY JUNE 1st**  
**(202) 456-6224 or White House,**  
**1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington**  
**DC. 20500.**



Ancient Forests



YOUR EDITOR IS AGAIN OFFERING A WEEKEND SEMINAR IN WILDFLOWERS OF KINGS CANYON IT WILL BE THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 13-14. COLLEGE CREDIT IS NOW AVAILABLE. FOR COSTS AND MORE INFORMATION? CALL HIM EVENINGS AT 465-2729.

## GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra From August 1 through August 21. Sponsored by 3 southern Calif. Audubon Societies, the camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness at 10,000 feet. For more information write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, Ca. 92373 (909-793-7897).

## PARK BOND INITIATIVE JUNE '94

If it gets enough support and signatures, there will be a Park Bond Initiative on the June '94 State ballot. This would provide \$1.99 billion in park and open space bond monies including \$9.1 million for local land protection activities in San Joaquin County.

The San Joaquin County Projects are:

- (1) Mokelumne River Protection \$2.8 mill
- (2) San Joaquin Co. Farmland Protection \$7.5
- (3) Woodbridge Ecological Preserve \$2.5
- (4) Swainson's Hawk Habitat. \$1.3 mill.

If you would like to help collect signatures or to raise money, contact any member of your S.J. Audubon Board.

## S.F. STATE OFFERS COURSES

Several courses will be offered for credit at the sierra nevada field campus just east of Sierra City. These include everything from Bird Banding by D. DeSante to Nature Study. Birds of the Sierra Nevada is being offered by D. Shuford. For info on other classes, costs, dates etc, call Jim Steele at (415) 338-1571 or 738-1814.

## PURPLE MARTIN COLONIES SACRAMENTO WHY NOT STOCKTON?

In Sacramento the birds are nesting under certain freeway overpasses in the vertical ventilation holes, the estimated population there is about 100 pairs.

The majority of the colony arrives back from its winter in South America about mid-April. One location is under the I-5 freeway directly across from the east-facing side of the Railroad Museum. Another is under the Route 50 Freeway at 21st and W Streets. Possibly the most interesting is under the Route 50 freeway at 34th and T Streets. Here they nest across the street from the CalTrans maintenance yard where there are several "east coast" style martin houses. The birds do not nest in these, but will occasionally perch on them!

# CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

The California Desert Protection Act appears to be moving towards passage in 1993 after 10 years of debate. In 1986 Senator Alan Cranston introduced legislation that would create the 1.5 million acre Mojave National Park, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments, and designate more than 70 BLM managed wilderness areas covering about four million acres. The bill was then stalled by Senator Pete Wilson and his successor, John Seymour, when Wilson became governor. With the election of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as California's new senators, both whom support the proposal, the bill will probably move through the Senate this year.

Opposition to the Desert Protection Act remains intense from mining and livestock interests, the off-road-vehicle people, and many federal BLM employees. The public at-large appears to support desert protection, and fifty cities and counties have passed resolutions supporting the bill. There is still intense pressure on the Congressional delegation to weaken the proposal.

To prevent the bill being weakened by the bill's opponents, it is important that we let the bill's primary sponsor, Senator Feinstein, know that we support the Desert Protection Act. The current proposal is a compromise that demonstrates that we can protect recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, while preserving the regional economic viability.

Please contact Senator Feinstein (United States Senate, Washington D.C. 20510) and let her know that you support a strong Desert Protection Act. (Ed Whisler)

## San Joaquin Audubon Society

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943-6997

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