



THE HOOT OWL

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SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY. JUNE 1994 VOL. 32 #3

May 14. MOKELUMNE RIVER CLEANUP. Meet at Lodi Lake Park Entrance from 9 to 9:30, Cleanup till noon. Picnic at 1:30. 474-3177.

May 14. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY. 10 am to 4pm. Demos Birdwalks, Exhibits, Games & Activities. San Francisco National Wildlife Refuge, Environmental Education Center, 1751 Grand Blvd. Alviso.

May 14. Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count. Call John Schick at 464-8304.

May 21, ANNUAL SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON PICNIC.

LOCATION FOR 8am BIRD WALK. Willow Slough trailhead Trailhead is 1/4 mile north of the Cosumne River Preserve Visitor Center on Franklin Boulevard. PICNIC WILL BE AT THE OLD BARN AT 11:00. FROM I-5 EXIT TWIN CITIES ROAD TO THE EAST FOR ONE MILE, TURN RIGHT ON FRANKLIN BOULEVARD for a very short distance to Desmond Road. Turn left on Desmond, over the railroad to the first farm road on the right which will take you to the barn. Bring your own table service and gourmet or other food to share.



May 29. Look for late migrants and local nesting birds at Lodi Lake. with Waldo Holt. A half day Sunday field trip with a local expert. Meet Waldo on Laurel Street, east side of the Park at 8am. 462-4438

June 11 Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count. Call John Schick at 464-8304.

June 17 16th Annual San Joaquin AudubonXerces Society-North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the Visitor Center at Oak Grove Regional Park. Bring lunch and a beverage. For more information call Kirby Brown at 468-3315

June 18 Cosumnes River Preserve 2nd Annual Butterfly Count. Meet at the Barn on Desmond Rd. 1/2 mi east of Franklin Blvd. Bring lunch. If you plan to attend call: Sarah Blanchette 683-1700.

June 18 Electra Road on the Mokelumne: Field trip to this beautiful riparian area. Bring lunch, call for particulars. Meet at 7:30 at Burn's Tower, U.O.P. Jim Rowoth. 462-7512.

YES ON 180 CALIFORNIA PARKS AND WILDLIFE INITIATIVE: JUNE 17. This Initiative has a broad base of support from Audubon and other organizations. It would purchase and permanently protect more than 400 areas for Parks and wildlife. The lands would be obtained from willing sellers, not "grabbed" as is stated by the Cal. Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association. VOTE!



BIRDS:

OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS: LOCALLY MOSTLY

3-4 R.B.Sapsucker, Stockton Rural Cem. 3-6 50 C Snipe, & a L.Golden Plover at L.S.P., 3-20 A W. Kingbird, Kasson Rd. & 3-26 a Hermit Thrush singing, pre-dawn in Stockton: all Jim Rowth. 4-2 Am.Bittern at Duck Creek Bridge, 3miles e. of Farmington by Russ Stoddart. 4-4 J Rowth and Jim Guthrie, W.Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, and Lawrences Goldfinchs at Hogan Res. 4-18 pair of Ca Thrashers, B.H.Grosbeak, ATFlycatchers, NRW Sparrows, G.H.Owl, BGT & Nashville Warblers & mosquitoes at Caswell S.P. J. Rowth. 4-18, American Goldfinch in backyard of the Lamms, Stockton. 4-23 Jim and Don Mix observed 50 Whimbrels on Temple Creek Rd, Swainson's Hawk at Henry Rd and Tricolored Blackbirds on Sonora Rd. The Stockings observed Common Loon, B.C.N. Heron, Marbled Godwit, Black Turnstone and others at Bodega Bay on 5-1. Acorn Woodpeckers raising young in coast redwood at Delta College 5-3, S. Stocking. David Yee has been observing West. Bluebirds nesting at Oak Grove Park where the Swainson Hawks are again nesting. 4-30 & 5-1, at White Slough, Wilson's Warblers, N. Orioles, Cm. Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, Black-headed & Blue Grosbeaks, 2 Solitary Vireos, pr Warbling Vireo, W. Tanager, B.T. G. Warbler, MacGillivarys Warbler, Hermit Warbler and too many Cowbirds. All by Jim Rowth.

Census of Tricolored Blackbirds has been completed Several large colonies were observed in the eastern foothills of the county. For details, contact Waldo Holt.

You can help with our yearly Swainson Hawk census by keeping records of nesting. Location of nest, time of fledging young or abandoning nest. Contact Waldo Holt with your records: 462-4438.

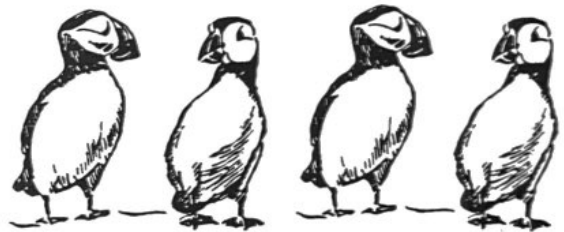
AUDUBON ACTIVIST AWARD: W. HOLT

At the Western Regional Audubon Conference this April at Asilomar special recognition was given to Audubon leaders who were nominated by their Chapters. These awards were presented at an evening all-conference session. Waldo Holt was acknowledged for his work as the Conservation Chair of San Joaquin Audubon and particularly for his efforts to protect the locapopulation of Swainson Hawk and their habitat. We all wish to give our congratulations to Waldo for his time and energy spent in pursuit of environmental protections that are hard won and of benefit to us all.

1994-1995

PROPOSED AUDUBON BOARD

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Salute to Terry Ronneberg

Audubon volunteer Terry Ronneberg has recently chosen to retire from the Board of San Joaquin Audubon. We should not let this pass without mention of his good works during his long tenure on the Board.

Terry has spent much time in his commute to our mostly in Stockton meetings from his home in Tracy. Terry works for the City of Tracy where, among other things, he heads up efforts to conserve water. For Audubon he has lead many much appreciated field trips and helped to bring us into the 20th century, at last, by getting our mailing list on the computer and keeping up to date for our newsletter mailings.

Terry has been a willing volunteer in many of our efforts and has provided the many values of his sincere interest in wildlife, good planning and a quality environment for humans and wildlife. We will miss his dedicated efforts, but know that he will continue to lead fieldtrips and participate in many other Audubon activities in the future.

GRIZZLY ISLAND FIELD TRIP REPORT.

On March 13, the field trip to Grizzly Island was hot and dusty, but it provided both good birding and mammaling anyway. Bird highlights were the Am.

White Pelican, Gr-winged and Cin. Teal, Am Widgeon, Gadwall, Com. Moorhen, A Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Cm Yellowthroat, N. Harrier, Rough Legged Hawk. Also Say's Phoebe, Lincoln's Sparrow, BCN Heron, Green Heron (new name, and Cm. Goldeneyes. Many of us got to observe elk and a pair of playful river otter. (J. Rowth) Another "new" name to keep in mind is Wh. Tailed Kite (no longer Bl. Shouldered) by James Rowth.

MITCHELL CANYON FIELD TRIP

On April 16, six hardy bird watchers braved a chilly morning at Mitchell Canyon on the north side of Mt. Diablo. For their efforts, 34 species of birds and numerous wild flowers were encountered. Among the sightings were many western bluebirds, a Lazuli bunting, a bushtit on the nest, blackheaded grosbeak, northern oriole, w. kingbird, white-throated swifts, a black-throated grey warbler, and a possible sighting of a golden eagle. The census would not be complete without adding that many ticks were also encountered. by Nancy Ballot



DELTA FARMERS HONORED

Two Delta area farmers were given Wildlife Conservation Awards on Friday for their work on restoring habitat on Staten Island.

Jim Shanks and Sally Hearne, who manage the M&T Ranch south of Walnut Grove, were presented with the award by Fish and Game Director Boyd Gibbons for stabilizing banks and restoring habitat on the island ranch. Their work is helping to show that, with proper management, there is a viable alternative to "rip-rap".

They were nominated for the award by regional fish and game manager Ryan Brodrick.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID YEE!

Without sneaking into Mickies Grove or trying to count exotics from the Smith Aviary, David Yee has seen his 298th "County Bird". Probably by the time you see this newsletter he will have seen 299 and 300!

Nobody does it like David. This is a first for San Joaquin County and we believe it to be the first for any inland county in California.

To those such as David who set the pace, our thanks. So much to aspire to!

"MR. BLUEBIRD"

Jim Guthrie, one of our local Audubon members, has established and currently maintains a "bluebird trail" at Hogan Reservoir. He has built and set out over two dozen nest boxes in the last few years. He has observed scores of young Western Bluebirds hatch and fledge, thanks in large part to his dedication and love for these beautiful birds. Breeding season '94 is in full swing now; as of early April, his boxes contained over 50 eggs and hatchlings, a good sign for so early in the year. With the recent rains, there is a good chance the adult birds will nest a second time this season.

Jim is an enthusiastic birder and a true believer in the "bluebird of happiness." Anyone interested in seeing his bluebird trail or in learning the nuts and bolts of establishing and maintaining one can call Jim at 369-6522. (J. Rowth)

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YOLO BASINS WETLANDS PROJECT

A recent ceremony signaled major progress in restoring Yolo Basin wetlands, an environmental and wildlife project being accomplished by a coalition of private and government cooperators. You can view some of this area as you cross the flood control Yolo bypass between Sacramento and Davis on Interstate 80.

About 2,500 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands within the 3,500 acre project will be restored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Upon completion in late 1995, the project area will become the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and management will be assumed by the California Department of Fish and Game

GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Three one-week workshops will be held in the high southern Sierra from July 31 through August 20. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes will be offered. For details, We, or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands Ca 92373. 909 793-7897. (ASAP!)

NATURAL SCIENCE ILLUSTRATION

Plants in Pen & Ink or Watercolor: by Linda Ann Vorobik. A ten-day course at the Sagehen Creek Field Station in Truckee. Aug19-29. Class \$250, and B \$245. \$150 to Friends of the Jepson Herbarium University of California Berkeley Ca 94720 as soon as possible.

NEW COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE VISITOR CENTER TO BE OPEN MOST WEEKENDS. at 13501 Franklin Boulevard, exit I-5 at Twin Cities Road., It will be open on Sat. from 10 to 2pm and Sunday from noon to 4. (Closed May 14 and Memorial Day Sunday) Call for info on tours 916 684-2816.

SEQUOIA-KINGS SEMINARS SUMMER 1994

A full program of seminars are again being offered by the Sequoia Natural History Association. These include "Birds of the Sierra", "Exploring Mineral King", "Outdoor Photography" and "Grant Grove Wildflowers". Your editor, and the instructor of Grant Grove Wildflowers, will be glad to provide further information. S.Stocking 465-2729



WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTICES OF:

Nature Walks in the Fresno Area at the San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve: Saturday June 11 a walk in the Riparian area of the Willow Unit, 1 to 2 miles, 3 hours. Starts at 8:30am. June 24 a two hour walk beginning at 6pm. one mile in the restored wetland habitat. Call 445-6520 to register from 8 to 5 weekdays.

BIRDING SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

Experienced birders and leaders will take 8 days to show you the primere birding and scenic regions of Southeast Arizona. Cost is \$1000, starting in Tucson from July 15-24. Call 619-378-3345 for more information.

SIERRA NEVADA FIELD CAMPUS

North of Truckee, near Sierra Pass, S.F.State offers a series of classes to audit or for credit. Among other courses are "Bird Identification by Song" "Birds of the Sierra Nevada" "Insect Biology and Identification", "Fungi of the Sierra Nevada", "Nature Study", "Sierran Bird Banding" and others. For costs and more information contact your editor or Jim Steele School of Sci. S.F.State U. 415 338-1571.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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943-6997

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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 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)

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