



# THE HOOT OWL

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 1995 vol. 33 #3

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION !

The House Endangered Species Task Force led by Congressman Pombo will hold hearings on the "ESA" at the Fairgrounds in Stockton at 11 am on FRIDAY April 28. Ten witnesses will be given five minutes each with the remainder of the time allocated to a "question and answer" format. This is really a time for people to vent their "feelings". It is important that you be there. Don't let the ESA be destroyed without a fight. This may be your only chance to speak out for endangered species. Before the hearing, at 10am environmental groups will hold a rally to try to counteract some of the anti-ESA hoopla. There will be a 9:30 press conference. (Bldg 5)

If you can't come to the hearing make sure that you write to Mr. Pombo and send a copy to the President and to Senators Boxer and Feinstein. If you don't have time to write, phone.

Address your letters to: Mr. Richard W. Pombo  
Congress of the United States  
2321 W. March Lane  
Stockton, Ca. 95207  
(His phone is: 951-3091)

Sen Boxer supports, Sen Feinstein...? Both Washington D.C 20510

It is best to write from your own experience and from the heart. But make some important points such as:

- >There are ethical and moral reasons for protecting endangered species. They are part of the common good for future generations.
- >Maintaining a healthy sustainable economy requires protecting valuable natural resources
- >There has been success with Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Grey Whales and other species which have been "recovered".

Ask Mr. Pombo and Congress to STRENGTHEN THE ESA;

- >Species should be listed sooner, before their numbers drop too low for economic and biologic recovery.
- >When species are listed recovery plans should soon be developed
- >Appropriate adequate funds to carry out the law. It has been hamstrung by lack of adequate funding and recently funding has been further cut.
- >Make more successful efforts to stop species from becoming endangered or threatened in the first place.
- >Conserve economic resources by focusing on protection of habitat for groups of species. Make multi-species plans
- >Create incentives for landowners to conserve species and treat all landowners fairly and considerately
- >Base listing on fair sound and objective science.
- >Minimize social and economic impacts & effectively protect species.
- > Fund as necessary to give timely responses to all involved.

**BIRD IN AUSTRALIA SACRAMENTO AUDUBON: October 27-November 18**  
 Birding down under! There is room for you to sign up to join this birding trip which is scheduled for next Fall. The trip will be led by one of Australia's foremost bird guides, Philip Maher. It will begin in Melbourne, and tour reserves in Victoria and New South Wales, before flying to Tasmania. The cost will be approx. \$3,200 for the tour, plus airfare to Australia (about \$850-\$1,000) and lodging and meals for 3 nights at the end of the tour. If you are interested in more information contact Phyllis Wilburn (call her at 989-4765, 6pm-9pm weekdays, or anytime on weekends). A \$200 deposit will hold your place on this wonderful adventure. Send deposit to Phyllis at P.O. Box 9, Rescue CA 95672. If you have ever wanted to see the birds and wildlife of Australia, this is your chance to share it with other like minded Auduboners.

**GRANT GROVE WILDFLOWERS (AND BIRDS & other things) June 17-18**

This spring we have had spectacular wildflower showings in the foothill and they should continue later between 5000 and 7000 feet in the Sierra. The cost of this seminar is \$50. Others available from the Sequoia Natural History Association range from birds to archaeology to geology. For details contact your editor, who is the wildflower seminar leader: 465-2729.

**WILDFLOWER NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**

A workshop will be offered in the Carson Pass area by photographer Steven Ruley. The dates are July 16-18 and the cost is \$90. His works have appeared on Audubon Sierra Club, and other calendars. Details and reservations: (510)449-2245.

**A WARM WEATHER BIRD COUNT**

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday May 13 by participating in our 1st ever entry in the North American Migratory Bird Count. This is a relatively new effort in many areas of North America to census bird populations. For those of you who are already familiar with our Christmas counts, it is very similar, but with a few differences.. NO FOG! NO COLD! Any and all bird information on that particular day will be of interest whether or not you are out in the field or simply monitoring your own backyard feeder. Give coordinator Jim Rowoth a call at 462-7512 if you'd like to get involved or if you'd like more information.

**HOSTILE LANDSCAPES AND THE DECLINE OF MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS**

"Nearly all of the species showing severe declines share two characteristics. They are long-distance migrants, breeding in the north temperate zone and spending the winter in the tropics, and they are forest specialists that generally do not nest in non-wooded habitats. These two common denominators generated two competing hypotheses: The declines may result from destruction of tropical winter habitat or, alternatively, from degradation of forests used for nesting in the north,"

These results have broad implications. Extensive, continuous forests should be preserved not only because they contain a diverse assemblage of forest migrants, but also because they are the source of immigrants that sustain populations of forest migrants in other regions where the forest cover has been disrupted. Insectivorous birds (most of which are migrants) can prevent outbreaks of leaf-eating insects in forests, so a major decline in migrants could affect the health and stability of forests. More generally, this study shows that conservation efforts must be planned at the scale of the regional landscape. No matter how carefully they are protected, small nature preserves may progressively lose their most distinctive species if they are surrounded by a hostile landscape.

Science 267:1956-1957. Mar. '95 Robt. A. Askin

**BIRD OBSERVATIONS MARCH-APRIL**

A Merlin and 2 Swainson's in Stockton by L.&S.Stocking. 3-18. Merlin, Burrowing Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, W. Kingbirds, Eared Grebe, Ruddy Ducks & Cinnamon Teal on Cook Ranch, 4-8 by S. Stocking & John Stebbins. 4-14 Many Snipe, a Sora & Tri-colored Blackbirds at North County Landfill by S. Stocking & Waldo Holt. Also large colony of Great Egrets and Great Blue Heron south of Clements and Swainson's near Dry Creek, By same ob on 4-14. On 4-16 Stockings observed L.B. Curlew, Swainson's, Merlin, Turkey, American Goldfinch, in Smith Valley Nev. From 3-26 through 4-22 Jim Rowoth ob. a family of Gt.Horned Owl at the Rural Cemetery in Stockton. On 4-22 at the Connelly Ranch many ob ob Chipping Sparrow, Golden Eagles, Western Bluebirds, 10 Elk, Nashville and Blk-throated Grey Warblers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Coopers, Sharp-shinned and N.Harrier and others including Lewis Woodpecker.

**BIRDS:**

C.L.I.N.E.  
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**Friday, April 28. Endangered Species "Hearing"** 10am: San Joaquin Co. Fair Grounds. Call Waldo Holt for information. (462-4438)

**Saturday, April 29. Stockton Earth Day.** 11 to 4, Oak Park, Stockton. Call Dave Wagner if you can help with our booth, please. 943-6997

**Saturday May 6. Bird-A-Thon** to raise money for good works of San Joaquin Audubon. If you would like to pledge \$ in support or get out and bird call: Jim Rowoth 462-7512.

**Saturday, MAY. 13. Cosumnes River Preserve.** Monthly bird census. Call John Schick at 464-8304 for details.

**Saturday May 13. Stone Lakes Excursion:Vernal Pool Vistas** From 10 to 1 join a botanist to experience the beauty of vernal pools at Stone Lakes. Reservations are required for excursions so call 979-2085 for reservations or additional info. Call prior to Thursday May 11th. 2-5 mile walk, no water or restroom available.

**Saturday MAY 20. Annual Picnic & Birdwalk at Cosumnes River Preserve** Meet at Willow Slough at 8am for traditional birdwalk. The picnic and meeting to elect the new officers will be at the Visitor Center, also on Franklin Blvd. at 11am. For the picnic you should bring a "brunch" dish to share and your table "service". To get there take I-5 north to Twin Cities Exit, go east for a mile and then south on Franklin Blvd till you see the trailhead sign & then the visitor center. Or you could go north from Stockton on Thornton Rd which mutates into Franklin Blvd. shortly after you leave San Joaquin County. Or you could call Nancy Ballot at 476-1926 for information.

**Sunday, May 21 Mitchell Canyon: Mt. Diablo Field Trip.** Meet at the Byron Methodist Church at 8am. Bring lunch for this bird walk up sylvan Mitchell Canyon. Bring a lunch and potables. Car pool to save on gas and the parking fee. Call leader Terry Ronneberg at 835-7847 for further information.

**Saturday, June 10. Cosumnes Bird Census.** Cosumnes River Preserve monthly bird count. Call John Schick at 464-8304 for details.

**Saturday, June 17. Birding Sonora Pass.** The idea will be to bird the coniferous forests during nesting season. How far we go will depend on the current conditions so call your leader for information closer to the date of the trip. It will be an all day trip and you should bring your lunch. Meet at U.O.P. 7am. Call Jim Rowoth at 462-7512.

**Sunday, June 18. San Joaquin Butterfly Count.** Meet at 8:15am at Oak Grove Park on Eight Mile Road. Call Kathy Schick if you would like to help out with the county census and learn about our butterflies. You could add the Pipevine Swallowtail to your county list! Kathy: 464-8304.

No meetings till September, but outings for July & August will be in the next Newsletter



**SAN JOAQUIN BIRD-A-THON 1995**

It is almost time for our periodic fundraiser. Funds are needed to continue our educational efforts in this county's public classrooms, to help pay legal costs incurred in defense of our native wildlife and habitat, to fund research efforts into the Burrowing Owl and Swainson's Hawk, conduct Christmas counts, to cover membership expenses like this Hoot Owl and to provide monthly programs.

Teams are now forming and members are soliciting sponsors. If you wish to be on a team or to form a team of your own, please call. Even more important than this team effort is our sponsorship. Without both our sponsors and our members who help get pledges this is only another day in the field. Get others to sponsor at so much per bird species, and do it yourself as well. Saturday, May 6 is the date. PROBABLY up to 150 species will be found in the County that day. If you want to participate in the count or to sponsor the effort, Call Jim R. at 4727512

**AUDUBON IN MEXICO: JIM ROWOTH**  
 Last year in the Hoot Owl, we appealed to members to donate any unused or damaged binoculars and field guides for donation to Audubon societies in Latin America. In February, Kasey Foley, Rich Petersen, and I were fortunate to personally deliver these items to the Queretaro Audubon Society (QAS) in Queretaro, Mexico. This group is actively involved in community education and is working to encourage an interest in birds and the environment. QAS runs Aztlán, el Centro de Rescate Ecológico well outside the city of Queretaro on 340 acres of native, desert scrubland. The hacienda has an educational hall, dorm-style facilities for up to 2 dozen visitors, full kitchen, and running water and electricity throughout. It is a wonderfully low key place to visit and to learn more about central Mexico's ecology--and the birds are terrific! Kasey, Rich and Jim would be pleased to share more about Aztlán with anyone interested or to put you in touch with either of these groups.

**San Joaquin Audubon Society**

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 943-6997

President Elect

Nancy Ballot

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Jeanne Gais

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- John Blades
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- Field Trips: D. Yee
- Conservation: Waldo Holt
- Membership-Publicity: Kasey Foley
- Outreach: Jim Rowoth
- Hospitality: H. Greenwood

>>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)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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