



THE HOOT OWL

San Joaquin Audubon Society

MAY-JUNE 1997 VOL. 35 #3

Friday May 9 and Fri June 13. from 8 to 10. Water the young oaks at Oak Grove Park and sneak a peek at few birds. Volunteer: Call Karl Kothe at 464-1004.

Saturday May. 10. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 5:45 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Saturday May 10. North American Migrant Count. Once again, this coincides with the International Migratory Bird Day. Celebrate by spending a few hours of the entire day in the field counting birds. You might even add a few to your Big Year List. Call Jim Rowoth for details 462-7512.

Tuesday, May 17. **Lodi Lake Annual Picnic and Bird Walk. Brunch-birds and business.** For the early birds, David Yee will reveal his most spectacular species of the hidden nooks. Meet him on Laurel Avenue on the east side of Lodi Lake for the walk. For the brunch, business and social hour, meet at Hughes Beach close to the entrance to the park nature area by 10:30. You will need your place settings and favorite potluck dish to share. One the agenda is the election of office and board members. The following slate of officers has been proposed by our nominations committee. Jim Rowoth-President, Russ Stoddart-President elect, Margaret Williams-Secretary, Dennis Smith-Treasurer. In addition to those officers the Board includes Kasey Foley, Esther Milnes, Rich Peterson, Steve Stocking and Past President Nancy Ballot.

Saturday, May 24 Migrant Outing. Meet leader Waldo Holt at the Park and Ride at Highway 12 and I-5 and 7:30am. Will visit Oak Grove Regional Park.

Saturday, June 14 . Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 5:00 at Willow Slough Trailhead.

Saturday-Sunday June 14-15. Andrew Molera State Park Overnight. A reprise of last year's trip to this late spring "migrant trap". Anything can show up as did a Whiporwill last June! Camping available. Lots of walking; terrific riparian area and seabirds and scenery. Leader Jim Rowoth 462-7512.

Saturday June 21. **SUMMER BUTTERFLY COUNT.** This butterfly census is a field trip of the San Joaquin Audubon Society, sponsored by the North American Butterfly Assn. We will meet at the Oaks Nature Center at Oak Grove Park at 8:30 am and walk through 4 parks looking for butterflies. Bring lunch and beverage as well as net and field guide if you have them. This is net and release. Call Kathy Schick at 464-8304 for info.

Saturday June 21. **OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS.** Evening Prowl. Led by David Yee. Meet at parking lot adjacent to Toot Sweet, north-east corner of I-5 and March Lane at 5pm. Bring snacks if you haven't had dinner.



AUDUBON TOURS THE GOLDFIELDS

Between Jan 2nd and April 20 of 1850 he and his miner friends toured the goldfields looking for gold. They started in Stockton, ended in Sacramento and passed through Angeles Camp, Murpheys and Chinese Camp. They were not able to find enough gold to support themselves and eventually gave that up. As one of his men, John Tone, stated: "There's more money to be made here by land speculations, and every kind of work than there is in mining, and those who work will get on."

He did make note of the grey pines and abundant "post oak" (blue oak). His sparse bird notes mention the "ultramarine jay, and Steller's, the red-shafted woodpecker and California quail many finches, ravens, the "robin of this country" and "many others".

"The country from Stockton is a clayey flat, so little of an inclination to the land, that the water appears to lie until evaporated, and the 'sloughs' in many places are sluggish and seem to be more water-holes than running streams, until they reach the Calaveras, which is a beautiful creek nearly four months of the year, but the other eight giving good water." Other birds mentioned were a mallard, a plover, a magpie and California vultures. "Day and night flock after flock or wild geese pass almost hourly over our heads to the north.

Audubon described Sacramento as a "swampy neighborhood, with bad atmosphere, and malarial conditions must render this section of country unhealthy to a great degree for half the year." From there they went to Georgetown where he mentioned various trees including cedar, maple and dogwood. His final bird observations in California were the "ultramarine jay" robins, flycatchers, chats and finches. His diary stops here and he soon returned east. (J.J. Audubon's Journal: Provided by E.Milnes)

AUDUBON e-mail,

Members can now e-mail changes of address to "CHADD @ audubon.org" National Audubon has a new website at "<http://www.audubon.org>". San Joaquin Audubon is online, visit us at: <http://www.stocktonet.com/community/audubon>

RIPARIAN AREA USE BY BIRDS

- 2X the use of coniferous forest areas.
- 2 to 3X the use of oak woodland areas.
- 10X the use of chaparral areas.
- about the same as wetland areas.



BIRD OBSERVATIONS: April 1997

- 4-1 White-crowned Sparrows still on Delta College Campus. S. Stocking
- 4-5: **Connelly Ranch Picnic**, Golden Eagle, Lewis' Woodpecker, Calif. Thrasher, Lawrence's Goldfinch and Cassin's Kingbird (Tracy Golf Course) by m.ob.
- 4 - 1 2 Palm Warbler & Chipping Sparrow at Swenson Park by Jim Rowth, Esther Milnes, Margaret Williams and David Yee.
- 4 - 1 3 at Kiln Canyon, Carnegie SRVA Calliope Hummer, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren & Rufous Crowned Sparrow, Rich Petersen & Kasey Foley.
- 4-21 **Waldo observed a Black Swift over his house which made his 150th "yard list" sighting!**
- 4-22 David Yee ob two Vaux's Swifts and a Band tailed Pigeon at Swenson Park G.C
- 4-23 Kiln Canyon on trip led by Waldo. Roadrunner, Yellow Warbler and Immature Golden Eagle.
- 4 - 2 3 Peterson, Foley, Rowth and Williams observed at Semi-palmated sandpiper at Tracy Sewage Ponds.
- 4-23 Gene Udwin observed a Lesser Nighthawk on Hiway 88 near the Amador Co.Line.
- 4-27 Kasey Foley & Rich Petersen observed Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager & Blue Grosbeak at White Slough & Black Terns at the Lodi Sewage Treatment Ponds.

TOUR TO EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.

Mary James & Todd Easterla will escort a nine day tour to some of the hottest birding spots on our eastern shores. Bird Cape May, New Jersey, from Sept 20 to the 28th with Gadabout Tours. The land tour price is \$1125 per person, double occupancy and is limited to 16 persons. For more information call Mary James at 455-4734.

GRANT GROVE WILDFLOWERS 6/ 28-29

In the early summer, the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon Natl. Park provides a great display of wildflowers. Last year we saw Red Crossbills and some other good birds as well. We will study the flowering plants of the diverse plant communities located between 5,000 & 7,000 ft. Seminar fee is \$70. Call Steve Stocking at 465-2729 for information on this & other seminars.

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While it may not be politically correct to consider the effects of the growing human population, this is the number one cause of habitat loss with the resulting need for the Endangered Species Act and other environmental protection legislation. The human population will soon surpass 6 billion.

To help my students understand just how large a number a billion represents, I pose the following situation: A millionaire begins to count her money at the rate of \$1 every second for 8 hours every day. How long does it take to count the loot? Now, change that scenario to a billionaire. How many years does it take for his count? The answer in 95+ years. The human population is nearly 6 times this number. A lot of people.

You can help birds in your neighborhood and backyard by using landscaping ideas as suggested by Jesse Grantham at the meeting in September. I will have copies of the plants he suggests using for hummingbird habitat available at the brunch. If you have hummingbird feeders, remember to keep them clean and filled year round. Anna's Hummingbird is a resident all year. Reduce the use of pesticides and encourage your neighbors and friends to do likewise. Be an advocate for all living creatures.
Nancy Ballot, Outgoing President.

AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

July 6-12 1998. ESTES PARK CENTER/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES. programs for all ages field trips with expert leaders, leadership training, learning lab. phone 303-499-3622. Fax 303-499-0286 e-mail convention@ audubon.org

FOLLOW THE MIGRANT SNOW GEESE:

Exciting news from Beth Huning, Director and California Partners in Flight information and Education Co-Chair. Last Fall, ten Snow Geese were collared with satellite transmitter. Now those birds are beginning to migrate north and you, classrooms, schools, and anyone who has web access can follow them live! Satellite tracking allows us to follow the path of the birds each day. Richardson Bay staff have been working hard to bring you the Bird's Eye View section of the site. Wildwings Heading' North can be visited anytime at north.audubon.org. In March, this site was given a 4 star award and was selected as "site of the week" by the Environmental News Network.



BIRD & ARTHROPOD PREDATION OF CODLING MOTH IN SUSTAINABLE APPLE ORCHARDS

Codling moths are a worldwide pest of apples. Broad spectrum organophosphate pesticides are routinely applied to control this moth in conventional orchards; there are few sustainable options that reduce the overwintering populations of codling moths. Birds and some insect species are known to attack the dormant state of the moth. Many growers do not realize the volume of insects many birds are capable of consuming, or that the codling moth is eaten by 36 different bird species. A preliminary survey by Jo Ann Baumgartner showed approximately 40% of overwintering codling moths appear to have been attacked by birds.

BIRDS OF BOTH WORLDS; NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

Slightly over 600 species of birds nest in the United States, of these, 388 are classified as neotropical migrants. Neotropical means that they are of the new world. They are the ones which leave during our winter, which is their non-breeding season, and migrate to areas of the tropics south of our boarder. Some birds are complete migrants which means that nearly all members of the species travel to the Neotropics. Other species have only part of their population go south for the winter. There are other species which migrate within the United States, some of these spend the summer in the mountains and the winter in the valley. Why migrate? To find the ideal conditions of weather and food as well as to find reduced competition for these resources. This is not a bad plan.

Take some time out to welcome back the tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks, buntings and others just back from the neotropics!

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE; NANCY BALLOT MAY-JUNE 1997

I would like to encourage all members to join us for the annual brunch in the park on May 17 at Lodi Lake. Since this is my farewell message, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board and other members who help focus the efforts to protect birds and their habitats. The struggle between the growing human population and available habitat for birds and other wildlife will continue to be a problem. On several fronts there are success stories. Many local growers are utilizing owls for rodent control. Owls are encouraged to take up residency by the growers who place nesting boxes in vineyards and in fields. These boxes provide needed housing and the owls do the rest. Tom Hoffman is instrumental in developing the Bluebird Recovery Program for San Joaquin County. Because of his efforts, there are now many nesting boxes for bluebirds. He has established a "trail" that includes 80 boxes. He also has provided 11 barn owl boxes for his vineyard. From what I hear, many of his neighbors are also active participants in this program. Others in our membership have both built and placed owl and bluebird boxes at the Oak Grove Park and elsewhere. Individuals can and do make a difference. One other example of individuals who make a difference is found in Santa Clara County where a concerned person working with the waste water treatment facility has built swallow nesting boxes for mosquito control. Each of these efforts promotes habitat and lessens the need for chemical controls. (continued inside on page 3)

Stockton

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