

THE HOOT OWL



May / June 2016
Issue 3, Volume 54

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

PROGRAMS

There will be no general membership meetings during our regular summer hiatus (May through August). The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 13.

Annual Chapter Picnic

Saturday, May 21

Save the date! On Saturday, May 21, San Joaquin Audubon will hold its Annual Chapter Picnic at the Mokelumne River Day Use Area/Fish Hatchery. We will start off birding at 8:00 a.m., combining our bird walk with the monthly bird census of this delightful park. The pot luck brunch will follow at approx. 10:00 a.m., so bring a dish to share. We'll also have a short Annual Business Meeting. Meet in the fish hatchery parking lot (below the dam).

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to conduct roadside Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in California in 2016.

The routes need to be run just once each year during the months of May or June; exact dates vary with each route. The main requirement for volunteering is the observer needs to be able to identify most of the birds along the route by call/song, and all by sight.

California has 228 BBS routes and currently has 94 routes that are vacant.

If you are interested in volunteering for a survey route or two, please contact:

Daniel Applebee
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
209-588-1879 (Phone)
Daniel.Applebee@wildlife.ca.gov

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, May 7— *Introductory Birding*

Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SATURDAY, May 14— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for start time.

SATURDAY, May 21— *Annual Chapter Picnic*

Join leaders Jim Rowoth and Joanne Katanic for our monthly census of this lovely riparian area on the Mokelumne River below Comanche Dam, to be followed by our annual chapter picnic and a short general membership meeting. All are welcome to attend. (See announcement this page). Meet the leaders in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, May 22— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader TBD for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 25— *Electra Road / Amador County*

Join leader Joanne Katanic to explore Electra Road, near Jackson off of Highway 49. This will be an opportunity to see how the area is rejuvenating after last year's fire. In the past this has been great spot to view newly arriving and breeding birds, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers, Bullock's Orioles and Yellow-breasted Chat. For carpooling meet in Lodi at the Park & Ride, Hwy. 99 and Victor Rd. (Hwy. 12) at 7AM. To meet in Jackson be at the parking lot for Mel & Fay's Diner at 8AM (also a park and ride). Joanne Katanic - (209) 483-2578 (cell).

FRI-SUN, June 3-5— *Annual Sierra Valley Campout*

The Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass areas offer great habitat for birds with many lakes, meadows, marshes, streams, rivers and trees. This year we will be camping at the Plumas-Eureka State Campground on Hwy 89 near Graeagle, or you can chose to stay at one of the local hotels. Please phone or email trip leader Dave Wagner to RSVP. (Dave's phone #: (209) 943-6997; email: dajwagner@aol.com.)

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San Joaquin County Summer Butterfly Count: 30 Years

Saturday, June 18, 2016, marks the 31st year of cooperation since our local Audubon Society rescued this historic butterfly count by making it an official field trip after Prop 13 had decimated the county's budget. Since that time we have additionally cooperated with the University of California Cooperative Extension, especially through their Master Gardener program. This is one of the few original 4th of July butterfly counts still being held, originally started in 1975 by the Xerces Society and now run by the North American Butterfly Society along with local volunteers.

We meet at Oak Grove Regional Park at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 18, 2016. There we will count some butterflies and carpool to other parks within the count circle. We will break briefly for lunch and generally finish by 3:30 pm. Participants will need to bring food and water as well as nets, field-guides and binoculars, if you have them. No experience is required, we will train you. If you wish to join us, please contact leader Kathy Schick at kschick2@gmail.com or (209)612-5130.

-Kathy Schick

FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, June 4— *Introductory Birding*

Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SUNDAY, June 5— *Calaveras Big Trees State Park/Birds and Blooms*

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264, k1mize@aol.com) for our annual visit to one of California's oldest and most beautiful state parks. We'll be on the lookout for neotropical migrants and local breeding birds, and the wildflower species of the mixed coniferous forest. Bring lunch, water, mosquito repellent, and sunscreen. We'll picnic by the river. Meet at the park in the North Grove parking lot at 8:30 a.m., or at the Country Café in Lockeford at 7:00 a.m. if you wish to carpool.

SATURDAY, June 11— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for start time.

SATURDAY, June 18— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Liz for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, June 19— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Join leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic for our monthly census of this lovely little riparian area below Comanche Dam. Meet the leaders in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

A Birder Responds to the So–Called “Creepiness Study”

By Nicholas Lund
April 13, 2016

Who are the real creeps? It's not birders.

If you're a birder you've probably heard about the “creepiness study” that surfaced today. It was maybe posted to your Facebook wall by some jerk uncle or unfunny friend. If you haven't heard of it yet, here's the gist: psychologists from Knox College in Illinois published the first–ever empirical study of “creepiness” and found, among other things, that people feel weirded out by birdwatchers. Great.

Here's exactly how that earth–shattering conclusion came about. In one section of the study, people were asked to list hobbies they thought were creepy; “the second most frequently mentioned creepy hobby (after 'collecting') involved some variation of 'watching.’ “Watching, following, or taking pictures of people (especially children) was thought to be creepy by many of our participants.” And somehow, birdwatchers got lumped in there as well. I have a few thoughts.

1. First of all, only squares use the term “birdwatching.” It's birding.
2. “Involves watching” is such a silly, reductive definition of birding. What it actually involves is a lot of hiking, adventuring, traveling to exotic locales, listening, thinking, anticipating, persevering, and laughing. Birders aren't birdwatchers, just as treasure hunters aren't “treasure watchers.” We're actively pursuing, not passively observing. I've been conducting my own study for years, and this newer study only proves a result I've long suspected: that people are horribly misinformed about what birding is.
3. Fine, birding is a little bit creepy! If we're going off of some warped public perception of creepiness, anyway. A lot of birders like birding in part because it means we don't have to interact with the public. That doesn't mean that we're anti–social; like most people, many birders just need a break from the human world and its hassles from time to time. I guess some people find it creepy when other people want some alone time? Whatever. **I'm a creep then.**
4. You know who I think the real creeps are here? These psychologists! Sitting around thinking about what's creepy all day? Constantly asking people, “Do you think *this* is creepy?” and “How about *this*? Creepy?” What a bunch of creeps! I think these scientists should get out of the lab a bit more—maybe pick up a hobby. I know the perfect one . . .

BIRD SIGHTINGS

February 17th, 2016 - April 4th, 2016
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)
Submitted by Liz West

On a February 23rd walk in his neighborhood, Jim Rowoth found a flock of **Red Crossbills** feeding in Liquidambar trees on Edan Ave. east of Pacific Avenue, in Stockton. They were last located February 29th.

On February 22nd Kevin & Melissa Henry photographed a **Long–eared Owl** in their yard in north Stockton.

A **Black–and–white Warbler** continued at Lodi Lake Wilderness Area in Lodi through March 8th.

As of March 10th the **Eurasian Wigeon** at Isenberg Preserve on Woodbridge Rd. was still being seen.

Phil Kahler found a pair of **Blue–winged Teal** at the Tracy sewage plant on March 31st. They were still present as of April 2nd.

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Membership

National Membership

By joining the National Audubon Society you are also a member of the San Joaquin Chapter. This includes subscriptions to the award-winning *Audubon Magazine* and to the chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. Both publications are bimonthly. For *national membership*, send check payable to the **National Audubon Society** to the address below.

- National Audubon Membership Rate: \$20

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P.O. Box 7755
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- Chapter Newsletter—mailed paper copy \$15
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