

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Have you noticed the news lately, hardly a day goes by that mention is not made of some issue important to the environment and to conservation. The public is waking up to the destruction of mother earth, the loss of resources, and the eventual loss of the natural inhabitants of that habitat.

We can have an impact on the course which civilization takes in this world. To do so we must each be willing to become involved. This could be so simple as to participated in a recycling program, plant a tree, or as complex as spearheading a movement to protect an ecosystem such as the Delta.

Here in the local Audubon Chapter we could use your help as well. I'm sure there are many of you who have ideas or energies well worth sharing. Please let us know who you are. The San Joaquin Audubon Society is eager to find people to become involved in the progress of our ecological and conservation efforts. We could use some new faces on our Board of Directors and on our committies.

Please call me if you can help. Best time to call is in the evenings. Thank you,

Your Chair, John Blades. 473-7073.

### SOME BILLS HELP WETLANDS

Here in California, over 95 % of the Central Valley's historic wetlands are already gone. That which remains of this shrinking habitat--the last outpost for millions of migratory ducks, geese, and shorebirds-- receives virtually no guaranteed water supply. Senator Bill Bradley's "Central Valley Project Improvement Act" (S 484) and Representative George Miller's "California Fish and Wildlife Protection Act" (HR 1306) provide a means to secure a firm supply of clean water for the Central Valley's wildlife refuges. With your help, these progressive bills could become law this year.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR WETLANDS

Please write to President Bush (Washington DC 20500) and your legislators (Congressmen, Washington, DC 20515) asking them to oppose weakening of wetlands protection and to support a sound system of wetland identification. Ask them to support the Bradley and Miller bills which would provide for a firm water supply for wetlands in the Central Valley.

## Kragen Auto Parts Stores Accept Oil for Re-cycling

*The Stockton Record recently announced that Kragen Auto Centers are now accepting your used motor oil AT NO COST in San Joaquin County.*

*More than 220 million gallons of used motor oil, roughly equal to 20 Exxon Valdez oil spills, are improperly dumped each year by do-it-yourself motor oil changers each year.*

*The company asks that you bring the used oil to your local stores during working hours in special used-oil storage units which they sell at Kragen and most other stores where auto supplies are sold. The oil will be dumped and the container returned to the customer.*

### Congratulations Kragen

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBC)

ATTENTION ! ATTENTION ! When the Stockton CBC hit the 150 species mark last year, we propelled ourselves into the category of being one of the premier counts in the state if not in the nation! Less than 5% of all CBC's have ever totalled that many species.. When the Wallace-Bellota CBC surpassed the 135 mark, I knew something was up as very few foothill counts amass that many birds. While, undoubtedly, the birds have always been present, our participation, coverage, and skills have increased dramatically. I would like to encourage all of you to keep up the momentum and sign up the 1991 season's count. We now have a reputation to maintain, so let Dick Filson or me know ASAP if you plan to participate. We especially welcome the new and inexperienced birders.

DAVID YEE

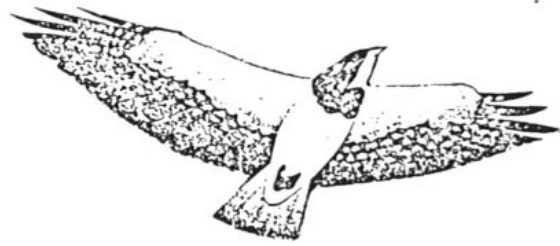
### STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

Come on out and help us break last year's all time high species count! If you've never taken part in a Christmas Count, don't miss out on the fun again this year. Call your Co;ordinator David Yee (951-1526) for more details and to sign up for Dec. 14.

### WALLACE/BELLOTA BIRD COUNT

This is your second chance to participate in a Christmas count and, for those of you who can't get enough of a good thing, a chance to do it again! And what's more, we always see several species not seen in the earlier Stockton Count. Call Coordinator Dick Filson (466-8414) for more details and to sign up.

# BIRDS



All sightings by David Yee unless noted. LL is Lodi Lake, SSP, LSP, RSP and TSP are our favorite local bodies of water, the Stockton, Lodi, Ripon and Tracy sewage ponds.

8-21 a Franklin Gull at SSP, 8-31, 15 Cedar Waxwings at LL, the first of the Fall. 10-1 an injured Ross' Goose at RSP with Waldo Holt. a Marbled Godwit, 4 L. Yellowlegs and a Stilt Sandpiper (2nd county record) at TSP w/ Waldo & Terry R. 1 L. Golden-Plover at LSP. 9-6 a juv. Ruddy Turnstone at SSP by Waldo. 9-7 an Osprey at SSP by Waldo (1st of Fall). A Baird's Sandpiper & 5 Sh-b. Dowitchers at TSP w/Waldo. 9-9 a Costa's hummer and a Wh-cr. Sparrow (1st of Fall) at LL. 9-12 a Com. Tern at SSP, 9-13 a Hutton's Vireo at LL. 9-14 3 Wh-faced Ibis at RSP and an Am. Redstart on Stan. R. behind RSP (2nd county record). 9-15 a Solitary Vireo, Calaveras R. in Stockton w/Waldo. 9-19, 14 Canada Geese at LL. 9-22 a Bank Swallow at Acampo, 9-27 a Black Tern at LSP. 9-27 a Black Tern (3ed county record) and a Merlin at LL by Waldo. 9-28 a Black-ch. Hummer at LL (late season) 9-30 a Lewis' Woodpecker at LL by Waldo. 10-4 a Vaux' Swift at SSP, 10-9 a Dunlin & 2 Blue-w. Teal at SSP. 10-10 a Junco in Stockton (season 1st). 10-14 a Palm Warb., on Calaveras River in Stockton by Waldo (1st county record). 10-18 an Amer. Bittern and a Sh. Shin Hawk at new Harney Lane Landfill by Waldo, Lori O. & Steve Stocking. 10-19 a Pectoral Sandpiper at LSP. 9-24 a Peregrine Falcon at SSP. 9-25 a Bufflehead at SSP (DY first Fall record). 10-28 a Snow Goose at SSP (DY first Fall record). 10-31 Gr. Horned Owl on Stockton Roof by Linda Stocking. 10-31 a Bl. Cr..Night Heron stalking a Venetian Gardens Pond. R. Lawson.



**BUILDER'S FEES FOR SWAINSON'S HAWKS?**  
You may have seen discussion in the Stockton Record of proposed fees to fund conservation zones in Swain Hawk habitat in San Joaquin County. The plan is for any Stockton developer to pay a per acre fee which would go to purchase the "right to develop" from owners of farmland in five areas of the county. The landowner could continue with present agricultural uses, but could not change the uses in ways which would discourage foraging by these hawks. Some other practices might also be restricted.

What are the advantages of such a program?

- 1) The hawks would get protection for their habitat which is threatened by land use changes.
- 2) Contiguous large tracts of land are better than smaller, scattered parcels which may be the alternative to this proposal.
- 3) It may be more efficient for developers to pay into one large pool rather than to have to deal with each threatened or endangered species on a case by case basis.

What are the disadvantages of the proposal?

- 1) The landowners in the "open space and habitat" areas may not be willing to sell their right to do what they wish with their land. Some believe it highly unlikely.
- 2) Builders, buyers and politicians may well balk at "one more fee" which would increase the cost of new homes.
- 3) the 5 proposed areas would not be good habitat for many other of our threatened and endangered species as they were planned with only the Swainson's Hawk in mind.

What could be done?

- 1) Further studies. Already a \$50,000 study has been done on the Swainson's Hawk. Do we another expensive study before any action can be taken?
- 2) How about starting to bank (buy) habitat now before costs go up and before proposed projects cover the prime habitat? Credits accumulated in the "bank" could be "traded" to offset the environmental impacts of proposed projects. This has been done.
- 3) Consider what plan would be best for ALL species, including the Swainson's Hawk.
- 4) Lets start by finding out if the landowners would actually buy the plan as proposed.

Steve Stocking

## AUDUBON PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS

### ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This coastal plain is the last major stretch of coastline in arctic Alaska off limits to development. Oil companies would like to develop potential oil and gas reserves within the refuge, threatening almost sure environmental damage. The Arctic Refuge is a productive ecosystem, home to polar bears, muskoxen, and snow geese, and the calving grounds of the Porcupine herd of tundra caribou. Audubon is working to place the Arctic Refuge in the National Wilderness Preservation System, keeping it pristine forever.

### ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE NORTHWEST

Ninety percent of the ancient forests of the US have already been lost. The last stands, often on government land, are being rapidly cut down by the timber industry. The ancient forest is a complex ecosystem that is also home to the Northern Spotted Owl, which was declared "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act after pressure was brought by Audubon and other environmental groups. Audubon's Adopt-a-Forest program is helping to identify and document remaining ancient forests to convince Congress to stop the destruction of the forests before it is too late.

### SAVING THE WETLANDS

Wetlands, a broad range of habitats where land and water meet, are disappearing at the rate of 250,000-500,000 acres a year. These areas help control flooding, prevent beach erosion, house wildlife, and offer recreational opportunities. They are threatened by farmers plowing them up for crops and developers filling them for housing expansion. Audubon is training a cadre of knowledgeable activists who can evaluate the wetlands in their area and develop plans to save them.

## San Joaquin Audubon Society

#### Officers:

President: John Blades  
473-7073

#### President Elect:

David Wagner -  
Secretary: Nancy  
Ballot 465-9461  
Treasurer: Jim

Rowth 462-7512

#### Board Members:

Terry Ronneberg -  
Steve Stocking -  
Kasey Foley  
Dennis Smith

#### Chairmen:

Editor: S. Stocking  
Programs: D. Yee  
Field Trips: David Yee  
Conservation: Waldo Holt  
Membership: Terry Ronneberg  
Historian: Staci Lavergne  
Education: J. Gaia & E. Johnson  
Hospitality: Nancy 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 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)

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

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY  
236 West Knoles Way  
Stockton, CA. 95204

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Stockton, CA.  
Permit No.450