

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The San Joaquin Audubon Society has been conducting two CBCs for over 20 years. The Stockton CBC takes in many local areas including the Delta while the Wallace-Bellota CBC covers the foothills to the east. Both have been two of the premiere counts in the state of areas away from the coast. Each have received high marks for total species and rarities seen. This has been due mostly to the excellent participation level in recent years. To continue this high degree of excellence, we need your help again. So, whether this is your 20th or first time on one of our counts, join us for the most popular birding event of the year and have fun looking at birds for the purpose of adding to one of the most well established data bases on bird populations in the world.

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

An excellent turnout of concerned citizens is needed at the *NOV. 12* meeting of the Stockton Planning Commission. This will be the hearing for the updated, 50 year, Stockton General Plan which would allow development of over 25,000 acres of prime farmland. The EIR warns of the substantial impact of a 3-fold increase in population in 20 years on already congested traffic, increased air pollution, loss of wildlife habitat and increased water demands. Please come to the meeting that night and support addition public hearings and workshops on this vital issue. Call me for information regarding time and meeting place which are yet to be determined. Dave Wagner, President. 943-6997.

BUCKEYE RANCH/BROVELLI WOODS SUBDIVISION RESURFACES

Once thought moribund, this ambitious but misplaced golf course and housing proposal has sprung to life again, threatening the one-of-a-kind biotic and cultural resources of the Tracy Lakes area on the north bank of the Mokelumne River north-west of Lodi. This rare mix of Oak-Buckeye Savannah, the last remnant of a closed-canopy, interior live oak, riparian forest in the Central Valley, with the pluvial Tracy Lakes, and the significant cultural resources on site, preaches that this is not a place to build a golf course and expensive homes.

The deadline for public comment on the EIR was last May and many unanswered questions remained, the biggest of which was "How do you mitigate for the Unmitigable? State Agencies were looking over the shoulder of the County which then did a new cultural resource study. Can the proponent build without destroying the cultural resources of this area which had been occupied from 15,000 B.C. to the 20th Century.

cont.



(3)

I am still hoping that the State and/or Wildlife Conservation Board, working with the County, and private groups could acquire the site for preservation. The question is, what are we going to do about this? Please give thought to what you think would be an effective strategy in opposing this project. Let me know if you would like to get involved in preserving Brovelli Woods. Call: John Newbold 368-9396.

A PARADOXICAL PARABLE

Once upon a time there were two north Stockton shopping centers owned by two respected local developers. These developers and their agents have expressed their concerns with endangered "criters" and their act. Environmental Impact Reports EIR's are not exactly the favorite reading of these folks. But it has come to pass that another shopping center has been proposed between those now existing. All three would then have markets and other competitive endeavours. It now happens that the agents of at least one of these developers has asked for an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed development and is looking hard for Swainson Hawks in the vicinity. It truly is heart-warming to see that our local developers are now realizing the need for EIR's, although we do not see that one is really necessary in this instance. Enlightenment!

THE MOKELUMNE SAGA

Hearings are coming up starting November 9th on the "Unreasonable use" of Mokelumne River water. Excessive water diversions and poor management have reduced the migratory fish of the Mokelumne to one-half-of-one percent of historic levels. This shows us that the whole ecosystem is in jeopardy. The East Bay Muni Utility District (EBMUD) should be looking to other sources of water including conservation, reclamation, Delta Water and desalination.

EBMUD's water appropriation essentially stays the same regardless of drought and diminished flows. This is the problem. Two thirds of the annual flow is diverted.

The fish hatchery at Camanche Dam raises fish imported from the Feather and American River that are dumped into a river that can not sustain them. In our recent drought years the river has been drying up below Woodbridge. Comments are needed at the hearing. Contact Bill Jennings 474-3177 or John Newbold 368-9396 HELP!



LOCAL BIRD OBSERVATIONS

OCT. 8	1 Clay-colored Sparrow	Stockton Rural Cemetary	D. Yee
	2 Chipping Sparrows	-	-
	2 Red-br. Nuthatch	-	-
	2 Black-th Gray Warbler	-	-
	2 Pine Siskin	-	-
OCT. 9	1 Townsend's Warbler	SRC (as above)	W/ Kasey Foley
	1 Yellow-sh Flicker	-	-
	1 Red-br Sapsucker	-	-
OCT. 15	1 Merlin	Terminus Tract	D. Yee
	6 Tundra Swan	-	-
	1 Lesser Golden Plover	-	-
	1 Semipalmated Plover	-	-



BIKE AND RIDE

Bicycle ridership in the Stockton Metropolitan Area is among the lowest in the State. The lack of adequate facilities is one of the reasons why more people do not ride in this area. Stockton Metropolitan Transit District would like to know if you are interested in the establishment of bike lockers which would make it more convenient to ride the bus. Call them at 948-5566.

PCL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

On January 9 and 10 the Planning and Conservation League is planning its yearly forum to review current legislation and the implementation of environmental laws. Interested in registration or information? Contact your editor.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

>>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: _____

Officers:

President: David Wagner
943-6997

President Elect:

Terry Ronneberg

Secretary:

Jean Gaia

Treasurer: Jim

Rowth 462-7512

Board Members:

Nancy Ballot

Steve Stocking

Kasey Foley

Dennis Smith

Chairmen:

Editor S. Stocking

Programs: D. Yee

Field Trips: David Yee

Conservation: Waldo Holt

Membership: Terry Ronneberg

Publicity: Kasey Foley

Education: E. Johnson

Hospitality: Nancy Greenwood

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

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