

# THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2009  
Issue 6, Volume 47

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

## Meetings

The meeting location is at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

**TUESDAY, November 10**  
**Jordan Wellwood**  
*"Threats to California Birds"*

Jordan is the Central Valley/Sierra Nevada Conservation Coordinator for Audubon California. She will discuss the major threats that birds face in California and what Audubon is doing to protect the landscapes that birds will need in order to thrive in the future. She will also share opportunities for local citizens to get involved and make a real difference in their communities.

Jordan started with Audubon California in January of this year as Conservation Coordinator for the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. Prior to Audubon, she worked on conservation policy in Sacramento. She holds an Honors Bachelors of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Jordan works with local chapters on a variety of conservation projects, as well as at the state level on Audubon's priority projects for the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. She is passionate about cycling, yoga, cooking, and conservation!

**TUESDAY, December 8**  
**David Yee**  
*"Annual Christmas Bird Count Program"*

Well, it's December again and that means it's time to prepare for our Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)! David Yee will help us sharpen our skills and remind us what to look for during this year's CBC's. Everyone benefits from this presentation whether a beginning birder or an advanced birder. So, join us and pick up some t-shirts, hats, books, and more for Christmas presents for your friends and family.

## Field Trips

**FRI-SAT-SUN, November 6-8—Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival**

Family activities, workshops, field trips, art, and more. See announcement on page 2. Please note that, due to the Crane Festival, there will be no Introductory Birding field trip this month.

**SATURDAY, November 14—Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery**

Join leader Liz West for this trip to one of our favorite birding destinations. Specialties of the area include Wild Turkey, Rock Wren, Osprey, and Common Merganser, among others. Liz and friends recently found an American Dipper here, one of few county records. Liz will also be doing her monthly bird count at this location. Meet at the main fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For more information, call Liz at 351-1232.

**THU.-SUN., November 19-22—Central Valley Birding Symposium**

Don't miss Northern California's premiere birding festival, and one of the highlights of the birding year! Field trips, workshops, vendors, and art show. See article on page 2.

**SATURDAY, December 5—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

Meet leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) 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. for a leisurely stroll through this lovely riparian "wilderness." Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

**SUNDAY, December 20—Stockton Christmas Bird Count**

Come one, come all to the 2009 Stockton Christmas Bird Count! All levels of ability are welcome. As I read recently, basic qualifications are the ability to point and say, "Look, there's a bird!" if you're a spotter, or the ability to make a mark on a piece of paper if you're the recorder. Last year was our best count of the millennium, with 156 species. Contact Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) to sign up or for more information.

**SUNDAY, January 2—Wallace Bellota Christmas Bird Count**

You can fulfill one of your New Year's resolutions (more birding, more exercise, seeing nature, hanging out with friends, doing CBC's) by participating in the Wallace Bellota Christmas Bird Count. It's a beautiful area with rolling hills, grasslands, riparian areas, marsh areas and farmland. Beginners, experienced birders and everyone in between is welcome. Don't let this opportunity slip by. It's a great way to start your new year off right! Just contact Kasey Foley [kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 473-3904 for more information.

# MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Every Martin Luther King weekend over 450 birders visit Morro Bay, California, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway.

The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. Over 200 species are usually sighted during the Festival weekend.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival will be held January 15-18, 2010. Over 100 individual events are featured, including pelagic cruises, boat rides and kayaking in the Bay, van trips throughout the county, as well as many informative workshops.

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org), or call (805) 772-4677. Those of you who have attended our Festival previously know that the events fill up fast, so be sure to make your reservations early and come join us!



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

It's party time again! The 13th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held Nov. 19-22 in Stockton, CA, at the Stockton Hilton.

Attend workshops with raptor expert Bill Clark, birding pros Jon Dunn and Joe Morlan, as well as other informative folks. Our evening programs include Murrelet Halterman on Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Stephen Shunk on "The Magic of Birding".

We have drawing and digiscoping workshops, our always popular and informative ID Panel with guest experts, programs for beginning birders, and more. The many Field Trips frequently turn up chase-able goodies. The Birder's Market is full of artists and vendors with a wonderful selection of bird- and nature-related items.

For more info, check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 369-2010.

The economy may be down, but the birds are still here to lift you up with their wings. Come and enjoy them with us. See you there!

Cheri Pillsbury  
Central Valley Birding Symposium



## Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

Mark your calendars for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 6-8, 2009, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off Nov. 6 with a wine & hors d'oeuvres reception from 6:00-9:00 p.m. that opens the festival and art show.

This year's festival features family activities, an art show, workshops, wildlife demos, and nature tours. General admission to the festival is FREE, although there is a charge for field trips. There is a full schedule of programs on Saturday and Sunday, and a wide variety of field trips is offered both days. For registration and information, go to [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com) or call 800-581-6150.

## Birding 101

Jim Rowoth will again offer his beginning birding workshop, Birding 101, at Delta College this spring. The class consists of five Saturday morning sessions, each of which is followed by a field trip to a local birding hotspot (e.e., Stockton Rural Cemetery, local sewage pond, etc.). We will examine the various birds found locally and some not so locally in this workshop. We will look at what makes a bird a bird and the great variety of different types found in nature, as well as their endlessly fascinating habits and lifestyles. We will also discuss the growing sport of bird-watching and bird-watching equipment. Participants will work on improving their abilities to find and to identify birds in both in class settings and in the field. Registration details can be found at <http://www.adultedreg.com/delta/index.cfm>; follow the link "For the Birds".

## First Point Reyes Birding Festival

Plan now to attend the first Point Reyes Birding Festival, April 23–25, 2010. The event is sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, the leading environmental advocacy organization in West Marin.

Point Reyes and the West Marin area are home to one of the most diverse bird populations in North America. April is a great time to see and hear breeding birds, and to admire shore birds and waterfowl (and many other species) on their way north.

Top bird experts such as David Wimpfheimer, Keith Hansen, and Jules Evens will lead participants on trips to discover the best birding sites in the region. Displays and exhibits will expand your bird knowledge, and you can stay at one of the dozens of charming bed and breakfast inns or other lodging establishments. The event will also feature other walks to see the West Marin natural world, including the famous wildflower displays, butterflies, and more!

Go to <http://www.eacmarin.org> to learn more about this exciting event. Make a reservation to stay in West Marin from Friday at noon to late Sunday afternoon, since accommodations fill up early for weekends.

We look forward to seeing you at the start of what we are sure will be a great tradition of Point Reyes Birding Festivals!

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

*Mid-August - October 24, 2009*

*(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)*

Submitted by Liz West

There were multiple sightings of Lewis's Woodpeckers starting with the sighting of one or two at Oak Grove Regional Park September 13<sup>th</sup> by Kasey Foley. Liz West saw 6 Lewis's flying over at the Mokelumne River day use area on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Jim Rowoth found three at Stillman Magee County Park on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Terry Ronneburg found a Pectoral Sandpiper at the Tracy Sewage ponds on September 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the Pectoral Sandpiper was gone but a Baird's Sandpiper and a Lesser Yellowlegs were present. Jim Rowoth found the Baird's Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs. Terry was unable to refind the Baird's later in the day.

On September 27<sup>th</sup> Sara Blauman, Virginia Bonham, and Kathy Bonham had an immature Chipping Sparrow traveling with a flock of White-crowned Sparrows at Buckley Cove in Stockton.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Liz West, Lynnette Buckman, and Joanne Katanic found an American Dipper at the Mokelumne River day use area. It was subsequently seen by a number of other observers. This is one of only a handful of American Dipper records for San Joaquin County in the last 30 years, and is the only one to have been refound after the initial sighting.

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
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*New website:* [www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Bird Alerts

No. California	415-681-7422
Monterey	831-626-6605
Morro Bay	805-528-7182
So. California	818-952-5502
Santa Barbara	805-964-8240
Los Angeles	323-874-1318
San Diego	619-688-2473

Joint membership in National Audubon and San Joaquin chapter includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

San Joaquin Audubon  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

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