

THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2010
Issue 6, Volume 48

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

PROGRAMS

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 9
Robert Meese

"Status of Tricolored Blackbirds"

Please join Robert and San Joaquin Audubon for this month's program on the status of the Tricolored Blackbird. Robert will give a multimedia presentation on recent trends, Tricolor abundance and productivity, emerging threats, conservation actions, and prospects for the future. He will also review and interpret the results of four years of banding tricolors.

Bob has been with the Information Center for the Environment, ICE, in the Department of Environmental Science & Policy at U.C. Davis for nearly 20 years. He's been working with tricolored blackbirds for six years and banding tricolors for four years and serves as the scientific lead for the volunteer Tricolored Blackbird Working Group. His work with tricolors has taken him from San Diego County to Butte County with a focus on the Central Valley from Kern County to Glenn County. Bob conducts annual surveys for tricolors to help to locate at-risk colonies located in ephemeral habitats, principally farmer's grain fields, and assists in efforts to conserve these colonies, monitoring those that are saved and estimating their productivity.

TUESDAY, December 14
David Yee

"Christmas Bird Count Refresher"

Everyone is encouraged to attend this annual refresher by David Yee which will help us all prepare for the upcoming Stockton (December 19, 2010) and Wallace-Bellota (January 2, 2011) Christmas Bird Counts. David always has a way to present information for advanced as well as beginning birders in his presentations so everyone benefits. Bring your binoculars for this standing-room only presentation!

FIELD TRIPS

FRI-SAT-SUN, November 5-7—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 13—Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader John Schick conducts bird census walks through this excellent habitat on a monthly basis. The walk covers about four miles and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. Meet John at the visitor center at 6:30 a.m. To get there, take I-5 north to Twin Cities Rd., go east to Franklin Blvd., then south on Franklin to the visitor center. Please call John in advance at 464-8304 to confirm date and time.

THU-SUN, November 18-21—Central Valley Birding Symposium

Meet 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 4—Introductory Birding Field Trip

Join leader Kurt Mize 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, December 19—Stockton Christmas Bird Count

Calling all birders of all plumages and experience levels, it's time for our 43rd annual Stockton Christmas Bird Count. Neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night will keep us from our appointed rounds as we search the varied corners of our count circle in dogged pursuit of whatever birds happen to be present for this fun-filled, all-day event, the true birding highlight of the year! Contact compiler Jim Rowoth (209-956-2648 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) to sign up.

SATURDAY, January 1—Introductory Birding Field Trip

See entry for Saturday, December 4. Join leader Jim Rowoth at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 2—Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count

This is your opportunity to start your New Year out right! Join us in our search for birds large and small, found in fields, on fence lines, or along the river. We can use your help even if you have NEVER done this before. The more eyes the better! This is a fulfilling experience for birders of all levels. Plus we need the help! Contact kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net to sign up.



14th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

It's party time again! Time to get ready for the 14th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium to be held at the Hilton in Stockton, CA, Nov. 18-21, 2010. Sponsored by the Central Valley Bird Club, we've won a reputation for throwing quite an event.

This year for our evening programs we have amazing photographer and author Paul Bannick giving a program based on his book and research into "The Owls and Woodpeckers of the West". Author of dozens of books and articles and award-winning photographer Moose Petersen will give a presentation on "California's Threatened and Endangered Birds."

Workshops include Jon Dunn on sparrows and Joe Morlan's shorebird ID workshop focusing on loons and grebes. There are many others, ranging from Central Valley Raptors to Beginning Birding, and digiscoping to bird sketching.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time!

For more information or registration go to the website at www.cvbs.org or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net. The hottest field trips fill up really fast, so don't hesitate. See you there!

Cheri Pillsbury
Central Valley Birding Symposium



Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

Mark your calendars for the 14th annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 5-7, 2010, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off Nov. 5 with a wine & hors d'oeuvres reception from 6:00-8:30 p.m. sponsored by the wineries of Woodbridge Uncorked that opens the festival and art show.

This year's festival features family activities, an art show, workshops, wildlife demos, and nature tours. Our own Jim Rowoth will reprise his ever-popular Beginning Birding workshop, and Education Chair Steve Stocking will present a workshop on "Bird-friendly Gardening." 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 or call 800-581-6150.

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

The 15th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival will be held January 14-17, 2011. Over 110 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 the website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. Registration begins October 1 and the registration deadline is January 5, 2011. Those of you who have attended the Festival previously know that the events fill up fast, so be sure to make your reservations early!

THE ARNOLD RIM TRAIL

The Arnold Rim trail is a "work in progress" in the Stanislaus National Forest near the towns of Arnold and Avery at about 4,000' elevation. Some folks who didn't want to see their motorized access to trails and logging roads restricted were not happy when this trail was proposed. Some still aren't happy, but trail construction has begun. More will be finished when grants are obtained. The trail is open to hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding, but not to motorized vehicles. At present it stretches from White Pines, near Arnold, some 10.5 miles to the Avery-Sheep Ranch Road near Avery. This amounts to less than half of the eventual total trail length which will also include a section in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. There is one intermediate access point shown on the map.

It is best to visit the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Station at Hathaway Pines on Highway 4 to obtain a map and trail information. The station is open weekdays. The trail surface can be muddy after rain and snow. The Arnold Rim Trail Association is a group of volunteers who are helping to finish the trail. They have an informative website at: <http://arnoldrimtrail.org>.

The developed portions of the trail are located in Stanislaus National Forest in the San Antonio Creek Drainage. San Antonio Creek is one of the upper branches of the Calaveras River. White Pines Lake and Community Park as well as San Antonio Creek Falls are on this creek west of the lake. The Lake was once the log pond for the lumber mill here and White Pines was a "company" lumber town. The trail starts at the Logging Museum near the lake and passes through a second growth mixed conifer forest which has some snowfall each winter. There are trout in the creek and lake, as well as deer, bear, and other wildlife in the forest. Both Osprey and Bald Eagles have been seen at the lake. Ducks and other water birds are often present.

Restrooms, a picnic area, children's playground, fishing and swimming are found at the Lake at what is presently the eastern terminus of the trail. A grant has been obtained to connect the trail to the town of Arnold. There are no fees at this park. This area is about half an hour east of Angles Camp on state highway 4. A group of community volunteers care for the park. White Pines Lake is about a mile north of "downtown" Arnold. Turn left just beyond the Chevron station.

Steve Stocking, Education Chair.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Mid-August, 2010 - October 14, 2010
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

The **Lawrence's Goldfinches** initially found by Sal Salerno at Caswell State park, were last reported by Steve Huckabone on August 22nd.

There is an irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in the valley. Jim Rowoth heard one at Stockton Rural cemetery September 19th and September 26th. There were several in the cemetery October 12th. Susan Schneider has found several in Stockton city parks in the past month.

On September 23rd Terry Ronneburg saw a **Western Gull** resting with the Ring-billed and California Gulls at the Tracy Wastewater plant ponds.

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New website: 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 COZC220Z
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

(Renewals should be mailed directly to National Audubon per renewal notice.)

Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
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Newsletter only: (non-member)	\$10	Lifetime (fam.):	\$1500

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