

# THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2013  
Issue 6, Volume 51

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 12**

**Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham**

*"Our Past Through the Trees, An Introduction to Dendrochronology"*

Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings, but it is so much more than just "how old is that tree?" Tree rings can tell us about past climates, fires, date archaeological sites, climate change and so much more.

Please join us for this fascinating presentation by Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham. Nancy is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Northern Arizona University as well as a Visiting Lecturer for the University of Virginia Semester At Sea Program, where she has taught biology around the world. Nancy has been a National Park Service Ranger since 1979.

Her books, **Park Ranger: True Stories From A Ranger's Career In America's National Parks** and **Park Ranger Sequel**, have received enthusiastic and excellent reviews from both park personnel and general readers. Her children's book, **Out of Thin Air: A Story of Big Trees**, is available as an e-book at Amazon.com. Her most recent book, **The Enduring Giants**, a coauthored book of giant sequoia biology and history, comes out later this year.

**TUESDAY, December 10**

**David Yee**

*"Christmas Bird Count Warm Up"*

Yep, it's almost time for our annual Stockton and Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in San Joaquin County. Can you believe it? And that means it is time for our refresher presented by the world renowned David Yee. This is a fun and educational romp through the bird groups we are expecting to see during this winter's CBCs. Everyone is welcome from beginner to expert birder because there is always something new to discover!

## FIELD TRIPS

**FRI-SUN, November 1-3—Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival**

Workshops, presentations, field trips, children's activities and more. See announcement on page 2.

**SATURDAY, November 2—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

Join leader Dale Smith 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, November 9—Cosumnes River Preserve**

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://www.cosumnes.org) for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

**SATURDAY, November 16—Woodbridge Wilderness Area**

Join leader John Blades for the monthly census of this delightful little park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet John at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in the town of Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, November 17—Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery**

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

**THU-SUN, November 21-24—Central Valley Birding Symposium**

Don't miss Northern California's premiere birding festival, and one of the highlights of the birding year! Key notes, field trips, workshops, vendors, and unbeatable camaraderie! See article on page 2.

**SATURDAY, December 7—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

See entry for Saturday, November 2. Join leader Susan Schneider at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

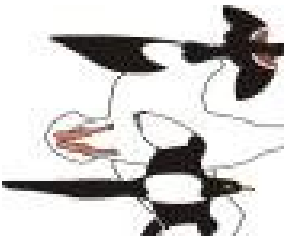
**SATURDAY, December 14—Cosumnes River Preserve**

See entry for Saturday, Saturday, November 9.

**SUNDAY, December 15—Stockton Christmas Bird Count**

Join your friends at San Joaquin Audubon for one of our biggest and most important field activities of the year. This dawn-to-dusk outing goes on regardless of weather conditions, so it's always an adventure! For more information or to sign up, contact Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)).

*(Continued on Page 3)*



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

On November 21–24, 2013, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel, in Stockton, CA.

Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board & staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! Take advantage of the delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

This year the Thursday night keynote is double-Ed, with speakers Ed and Ed (Harper and Pandolfino) discussing trends in bird populations in the Central Valley.

Friday night's keynote program is by Kimball Garrett on Avian Invaders in California. Few areas of North America are as prone to the release and establishment of non-native bird species as California. Whether introduced purposefully or by accident, these avian immigrants include some of our most familiar bird species, a whole suite of additional species whose status is ever-changing, and a seemingly never-ending parade of escapees that send us running for our foreign field guides when we encounter them.

Don't miss the Saturday night keynote program "Birds of the Sierra Nevada" with Ted Beedy, Ed Pandolfino, and Keith Hansen! Ted, Ed, and Keith will take you on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. See and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home and learn which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing.

Also on Saturday, Susan Schneider will present a fascinating program "No Birdbrains Here: The Latest on Learning Instinct and Intelligence in Birds", exploring bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Dawn Garcia will share data about the secretive Northern Saw-Whet Owls in her program, "Migration Patterns of Northern Saw-Whet Owls near Forest Ranch, CA". Join Andy Engilis for an up close look at Central Valley birds at his specimen workshop.

Hands on events include Bob Steele's workshop for photographers, bird sketching with artist Keith Hansen, a carving seminar for beginners with Jim Burcio, and Beginning Birding with Jim Gain. Don't miss "Seeing Rare Birds in California: Why our state list is the largest in the US at 652 species and you can help find more" by Joe Morlan and a Flycatcher ID Workshop with Jon Dunn.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of optics, 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! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips or register, check out our symposium website at: [www.2013cvbs.org/](http://www.2013cvbs.org/)

## Woodbridge Crane Tours

The California Department of Fish and Game invites you to come out on a tour, in Lodi, during the "Season of the Sandhill Crane." The season begins with the arrival of the Sandhill Cranes into the Delta and Central Valley in about late September, where they will spend the fall and winter months. Tours consist of viewing Sandhill Cranes and other unique wintering waterfowl, hearing a presentation on Sandhill Cranes and their Reserve habitat, and viewing the cranes' impressive, nightly behaviors at a location that is only open to the public during these special tours. Information on the Woodbridge Sandhill Crane Reserve, and on the tours, is available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour/>

## Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival



Mark your calendars for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 1–3, 2013, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off with an opening reception and Art Show on Friday, November 1st from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and Lodi wines from Acquiesce Winery, Macchia Wines, and Serpa Vineyards. The reception is free and open to all.

In addition to the art show, this year's festival features workshops, presentations, live animal shows, music, children's activities, displays, vendors, food, 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 all three days. For registration and information, go to [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com) or call 800-581-6150.

### Field Trips

*(Continued from Page 1)*

#### **SATURDAY, December 21—Woodbridge Wilderness Area**

See entry for Saturday, November 16. Join leader John Blades at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

#### **SUNDAY, December 22—Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery**

See entry for Sunday, November 17. Meet leader Liz West in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

#### **SATURDAY, December 28—Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count**

Mark Saturday, December 28, 2013 on your calendar for the second (and most fun) San Joaquin Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) of the season. This beautiful foothill CBC will hopefully provide you good looks at spectacular raptors, Lewis' woodpeckers, possible Golden and Bald eagles, Phainopepla, Sapsuckers, Mergansers, Western/Clarks grebes, Loons and more! Your team leaders will let you know when and where to meet them so if you want to participate (and please do) contact Kasey Foley [kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net) to be assigned to a team.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

**August 16, 2013 - October 16, 2013**

*(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)*

Submitted by Liz West

Pat Bacchetti found a **Horned Grebe** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds August 28<sup>th</sup>.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, David Yee reported that an **Orchard Oriole** was found at a private residence in Lodi and at the Lodi Sewage ponds a group of birders saw a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and a juvenile **Willet**.

Joanne Katanic saw a **Red-naped Sapsucker** in her yard October 2<sup>nd</sup>, she may have seen it a couple of weeks earlier but it disappeared before it could be identified. It was in her yard for several days.

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Stockton, CA  
Permit #450

Address Service Requested

## San Joaquin Audubon Society

Alan England	President, Membership
Vacant	President-elect
Lorna Elness	Past President
Cathy Mathis	Secretary
Liz West	Treasurer
Dale Smith	Director at Large
Susan Schneider	Director at Large
Chaya Prabhu	Director at Large
Dennis Smith	Director at Large

Kasey Foley	Website, Programs
Steve Stocking	Education
Kurt Mize	Newsletter Editor
David Coursey	Listserve Moderator

Website: [www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Birding E-mail Discussion Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Calbirds>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjbirds/>  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central\\_valley\\_birds/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sta\\_birds/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sta_birds/)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central-sierra-birds/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierra-nevadabirds/>

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 C3ZC220Z  
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
Basic Family;	\$35	Lifetime (ind.):	\$1000
Newsletter only: (non-member)	\$10	Lifetime (fam.):	\$1500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

*The Hoot Owl* is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.