TUESDAY, November 11
Susan Schneider, Ph.D.
“No Birdbrains Here: The Latest on Bird Learning, Instinct, and Intelligence”

Birds can learn from consequences, as we and many other species can: Baby chicks learn to peck accurately, wild mockingbirds can learn to recognize individual people, and pigeons are able to learn to categorize art and music. Even instinctive behaviors like imprinting can be more flexible than scientists used to think, and songbird song appears particularly malleable. This talk will explore bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Such adaptability may be critical as wild birds attempt to adjust to the many threats they face. Scientists also take advantage of this powerful learning ability to help save endangered species.

A biopsychologist, Susan has over 25 years of research and teaching experience in the science of consequences and nature-nurture relations. She’s also an avid birder, field trip leader, and environmental activist. A board member of San Joaquin Audubon since 2009, she was on the Tropical Audubon board in Miami, and is a past president of Mountaineer Audubon in West Virginia. She’s published numerous scientific articles and book chapters, and has been a faculty member at St. Olaf College, Auburn University, and Florida International University. She's currently a Visiting Scholar at the University of the Pacific. Susan’s first book for the public, The Science of Consequences: How They Affect Genes, Change the Brain, and Impact our World, is a selection of the Scientific American Book Club, and will be available for purchase at the meeting.

(Continued on Page 2)
PROGRAMS
(continued from page 1)

TUESDAY, December 9
David Yee
“Christmas Bird Count Refresher”

Did you know that participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) makes you a Citizen Scientist? Well it does, and this year will mark the 115th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, making it the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world providing critical data on population trends. And you thought it was just a REALLY fun day birding from dawn to dusk (or earlier/later if you’re owling)!

So, join us to hear David Yee, yes, THE David Yee, discuss the current state of birds in our region and helpful tips on what to focus on or pay particular attention to when birding the Stockton and Wallace–Bellota CBC circles. David loves questions so be prepared for an interactive presentation and if you haven't done so already, sign up for one or both of the CBC's in our area.

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Audubon Society has released an extensive new study on the potential impact of global warming on North American birds. After a nearly eight year study Audubon scientists have concluded that climate change is the No. 1 threat to North American birds! Audubon’s science models predict that 314 species of birds in the U.S. are under direct threat of extinction by 2050 if we don’t take action to prevent their decline by protecting strongholds, passing stronger climate policy, and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

The September–October issue of Audubon magazine has extensive coverage on this issue and gives suggestions on what individuals and groups can do to help reduce the negative impacts on birds in their local area. (Refer to Audubon.org/climate for more information).

Dave Wagner, Conservation

18TH Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 20–23, 2014 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! Meet new ones! Take advantage of the scrumptious Hors D’oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

Thursday Night’s Keynote speaker is Ed Harper presenting a program on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley”. The CVBS gets off to a supercharged start with this lively and informative presentation. Ed is a widely known, popular and highly sought after speaker.

Friday Night’s keynote program is presented by Nat Seavey on “From Flood to Drought: A Bird’s–Eye View of Water Management in the Central Valley.” Nat Seavey, is the Research Director of the Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO). His research is focused on the ecology and conservation of riparian ecosystems, bird migration, the ecological effects of climate change, and applying science to conservation decision making and public policy.

Saturday Night’s keynote program is presented by Joel Greenberg on “The Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon.” For the past four years he has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon which aims to mark the anniversary of the species' extinction. He is co–producing with director David Mrazek the documentary, From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction. It will be available in spring of 2014.

Workshops include: "Subspecies for Birders“ by Joe Morlan, "What Birders should know about Taxonomy in Flux" by Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele, plus, informative talks by Monica Iglesia, Sara Kross, and Bob Meese. Andy Engilis and his UCD Museum crew will present the very popular Specimen Workshop.

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! 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 website at: http://www.2013cvbs.org/  Registration at: http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2014
**BIRD SIGHTINGS**

_August 5, 2014 - October 14, 2014_

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Jim Rowoth found a **Baird's Sandpiper** in a flooded field on Woodbridge Rd. on August 21st. It was seen August 23rd in the company of Least and Western Sandpipers. On August 24th, Terry Ronneberg saw one at Tracy Sewage Ponds, after not seeing the one at Woodbridge Rd. Terry also had a female **Blue-winged Teal**, most likely the one present in July. On September 23rd there were at least three Blue-winged Teals and on October 6th, David Yee estimated there were up to thirteen.

On an August 23rd San Joaquin Audubon trip to Oak Grove Regional park in Ripon, Mark Elness saw an early **Varied Thrush** among the Cedar Waxwings and Robins.

Cliff Hawley and Jim Rowoth found two **Solitary Sandpipers**, and Cliff observed a **Bank Swallow** and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, August 29th at the Ripon Sewage ponds.

David Yee and Jim Rowoth picked out a **Chimney Swift** flying with some White-throated Swifts and Barn Swallows over the Ripon Sewage Ponds on September 6th.

On September 11th, Dan Williams saw six **Pectoral Sandpipers** all together at the Lodi Sewage ponds.

David Yee found a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Lodi Lake, September 19th, in a large mixed flock of warblers. It was seen by a few people the next day then disappeared.

At Tracy Sewage Ponds David Yee, saw a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** on September 23rd. It was still present the next day.

Jim Rowoth and others observed a **Band-Tailed Pigeon** during a September 28th field trip to Ripon Oak Grove Park. The bird was seen perched in a tree on the Stanislaus County side of the river.

David Yee found a **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow** at Heritage Oaks Winery on September 30th. There was also one seen at the winery last year.

There was an immature **Harris's Sparrow** in David Yee’s Lodi backyard on October 6th and 7th.
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