

# THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2014  
Issue 6, Volume 52

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 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.

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## FIELD TRIPS

**SATURDAY, November 1— *Introductory Birding Field Trip***

Join leader Mark Elness 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.

**SATURDAY, Nov. 8— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk***

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 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 15— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area***

Join leader Liz West for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, November 16— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery***

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

**THU-SUN, November 20-23— *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.

**SUNDAY, November 30— *Family Thanksgiving Walk / Bear Creek Bike Trail***

Meet leader Susan Schneider at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot for Michael Faklis Park, which is off Cosumnes Dr. near Mokelumne Circle, southwest of the I5/Eight Mile Rd. interchange. Riparian and marsh habitat is the attraction here at the edge of the Delta. Even if the birds don't cooperate, the view of Mt. Diablo is impressive. This is a family friendly outing, with easy-to-see birds like Belted Kingfisher, waders, and grebes. Extra binoculars will be available.

**SATURDAY, December 6— *Introductory Birding Field Trip***

See entry for Saturday, November 1. Join leader Mark Elness at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

**SATURDAY, December 13— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk***

See entry for Saturday, November 8. Meet leader TBA at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Double check the website, <http://www.cosumnes.org/upcoming-activities> for start time.

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## PROGRAMS

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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 115<sup>th</sup> 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](http://Audubon.org/climate) for more information).

Dave Wagner, Conservation

## 18<sup>TH</sup> 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 Iglesias, 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>

## FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

### SATURDAY, December 20— *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 (487-3489 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)).

### SUNDAY, December 21— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

### SUNDAY, January 4, 2015— *Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count*

Need a sure cure for "cabin fever" or the winter blahs? Join in the fun of the Wallace-Bellota CBC, the foothill counterpart to the Stockton count. Get out in the country for some fresh air and great birds in the company of some crazy eccentric great people! To sign up for this once-a-year adventure, please contact Kasey Foley (639-6501), [kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net) to sign up.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>. It was seen August 23<sup>rd</sup> in the company of Least and Western Sandpipers. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> there were at least three Blue-winged Teals and on October 6<sup>th</sup>, David Yee estimated there were up to thirteen.

On an August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

David Yee found a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Lodi Lake, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was still present the next day.

Jim Rowoth and others observed a **Band-Tailed Pigeon** during a September 28<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

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## Calif. Birding E-mail Discussion Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Calbirds>  
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San Joaquin Audubon C4ZC220Z  
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