

THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2015
Issue 6, Volume 53

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 10

Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham, Ph.D.

"Inside Birds: Avian Structure and Function"

Join Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham for a literal look inside birds. How have they evolved to be the unique class they are today? From skeleton to muscles, digestion to their varied senses, we will explore these wonderful co-inhabitants of planet earth.

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 taught biology around the world.

She was selected by the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and traveled to the Russian Federation to teach at Gorno-Altai State University in southwest Siberia and to conduct research in remote protected areas.

Nancy is a retired United States National Park Ranger and lives in the Sierra Nevada with her family. When not working on her research on Giant Sequoias she loves to backpack. She has completed solo hikes of the John Muir and High Sierra Trails through the Sierra Nevada, hiked through the Alps on The Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, and is a Pacific Crest Trail section hiker. She is the author of several books.

TUESDAY, December 8

David Yee

"Annual Christmas Count Refresher"

Please join us for our annual Christmas Bird Count discussion to learn about the latest trends in our area during this CBC season. David Yee will share his knowledge and expertise on what our focus should be this year and he will entertain questions.

FIELD TRIPS

SUNDAY, November 1— Ripon Oak Grove and Sewage Ponds

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a visit to this 55 acre park on the banks of the Stanislaus River in Ripon. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Toot Sweets, (northwest corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Drive in Stockton) to carpool, or in Ripon at 7:30 a.m..

FRI-SAT-SUN, Nov. 6, 7, & 8— Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

A weekend of fun for the whole family. General Admission is free. See article on page 3.

SATURDAY, November 14— Cosumnes River Preserve

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or 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 for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SATURDAY, November 14— 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 15— 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 19-22— 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 5— Introductory Birding Field Trip

See entry for Saturday, November 1. Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) in Lodi 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 6— San Joaquin River NWR

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a walk along the Pelican Nature Trail that meanders through seasonal wetlands, restored riparian woodlands, and stands of old-growth valley oak trees. The trailhead includes an educational 7-acre native vegetation exploration area. Meet at Toot Sweets in Stockton at 7 a.m.

(Continued on Page 3)

19TH Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium



The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 19th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium [Nov. 19–22, 2015](#) 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 speakers are Ed Harper & Ed Pandolfino presenting a program on *"A Central Valley Year of Sights & Sounds"*. The CVBS gets off to a supercharged start with this lively and informative presentation. Both Eds are widely known, popular, and highly sought-after speakers.

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Steve N.G. Howell on *"Shift Happens: Rare {Vagrant} Birds in North America."* Steve is an acclaimed field ornithologist & prolific writer. He is an international bird tour leader with WINGS and a Research Associate at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO).

Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Kate Marianchild on *"Our Magnificent Valley Oaks; Hubs of their Habitats."* Kate Marianchild is a naturalist, birder, and author of the best-selling *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants, and Animals among California's Oaks*.

Workshops include: *"Birding: the 12-step Program--Bird ID explained"* by Steve N.G. Howell, *"Shorebird ID Workshop"* by Jon Dunn, *"A Mini Tricolored Blackbird Symposium"*, moderated by Dan Airola, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele. Plus, informative workshops by Philip Garone, Keith Hansen, Sal Salerno and Jim Burcio.

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 fieldtrips, check out our website at: <http://www.cvbsreg.org>

REGISTRATION is now open

REGONLINE Website:

<http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2015>

CVBS Steering Committee

cvbsreg@gmail.com

[209-369-2010](tel:209-369-2010)

Frances Oliver, Registrar

FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, December 12— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or 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 for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SUNDAY, December 13— *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.

SATURDAY, December 19— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader TBD 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, 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).

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the 19th annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 6–8, 2015, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off with an opening reception and Art Show on Friday, November 6th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.

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 or call 800-581-6150.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

August 15, 2015 - October 14, 2015
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On August 30th, David Yee found a juvenile **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds

On August 31st, Daniel Gilman saw a **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Ripon Sewage Ponds. It continued through at least September 1st.

On September 3rd, David Yee had a **Least Flycatcher** on private property along the Mokelumne River in Acampo. He also found a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

On September 9th, Daniel Gilman found a **Baird's Sandpiper** at the Ripon Sewage Ponds.

On September 12th, Frances Oliver and Linda Pittman saw four to six **Common Terns** in the San Joaquin County section of Camanche Reservoir. They are probably part of the 15 individuals reported by Todd Easterla and Greg Hernig the previous day.

Pat and Dave Croft saw a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Lodi Lake in the burned area on September 15th.

On September 17th, Sal Salerno found a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the Ripon Sewage ponds. On September 19th, Al DeMartini had two juvenile **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the same location, which he thinks were different individuals than the one found September 17th.

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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 C5ZC220Z
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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The Hoot Owl is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.