

THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2017
Issue 6, Volume 55

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 14

Christy Sherr

"The Surprising Benefits of Beetles and Wildfires"

Mixed intensity fires and native beetles create some of the most productive and critical habitats for California birds and wildlife. Large, dense patches of standing dead trees are preferred by a host of plants, insects, mammals, and birds such as Black-backed Woodpeckers. Surprisingly, that includes even many of our most threatened and endangered species such as Spotted Owls and Pacific Fishers. Come explore the unique beauty of this extremely important habitat and find out why so many wildlife species benefit from conditions created by beetles and fire.

Christy Sherr is a retired National and State Park Ranger, currently working as a field biologist and Education Coordinator for the John Muir Project of the Earth Island Institute. She is a past president of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Chapter.

TUESDAY, December 12

David Yee

"Christmas Bird Count Extravaganza"

Don't miss this annual educational CBC update by David Yee where he shares his tremendous insight about the winter birds in the Central Valley. David will cover what birds to expect, the latest bird trends, and the diminishing birds of the future. This is an important program for anyone who wants to participate in our Stockton or Wallace-Bellota CBC's or just wants to know more about them.

David Yee is a past President of the San Joaquin Audubon Society, the Central Valley Bird Club, and Western Field Ornithologists. He is responsible for the creation of the Central Valley Birding Symposium and is a founding member of the Central Valley Bird Club. David is a local birding legend who has earned universal acclaim and respect.

FIELD TRIPS

FRI-SAT-SUN, Nov. 3, 4, & 5— *Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival*

A weekend of fun for the whole family. General Admission is FREE. See article on page 3. Please note that, due to the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, there will be no Introductory Birding Field Trip this month.

SATURDAY, November 11— *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.

THU-SUN, November 16-19— *Central Valley Birding Symposium*

Come help us celebrate our 21st anniversary! This outstanding birding festival is always one of the highlights of the birding year! Key notes, field trips, workshops, vendors, and unbeatable camaraderie! See article on page 2.

SATURDAY, December 2— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternostro 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, December 9— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

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 10 – *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.

SATURDAY, December 16— *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).

SUNDAY, December 17— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

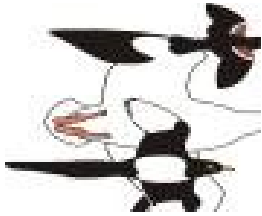
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FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, December 30—*Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count*

Don't be left out! What better way to end the year than by participating in the Wallace-Bellota CBC? The foothill counterpart to the Stockton CBC. Get out in the country for some fresh air and great birds in the company of some great people! To sign up or for more information, please contact Kasey Foley, kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net or (209)473-3904.



21st Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

Registration is now open for the 21st annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 16-19, 2017, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Judged by many as one of the premier birding events in the West, the CVBS is hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

The CVBS kicks off with a scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet & no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program on *"Wings over the Central Valley"*.

Friday night's keynote program "*Bank Swallow Colonies on the Upper Sacramento River*" will be presented by Dawn Garcia, a member of the Bank Swallow Technical Advisory Committee. Dawn will give us the scoop on the "little dirt bird" and the dynamic river processes it needs.

Saturday night's keynote program, "*Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year*" will be presented by Noah Strycker. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year, in which he set a world record by seeing 6,042 birds in one calendar year, will give you a real appreciation for the birds and birders of the world. His newest book, *Birding Without Borders*, about his around-the-world Big Year, is due out in fall 2017.

Educational and entertaining workshops include: "*Wintering Burrowing Owls in California*" with Lynne Trulio, "*The Surprising Benefits of Beetles and Fire-Wildlife Nurseries*" with Christy Sherr, "*Neotropical Migrants*" with Joe Morlan, "*Winter Waterfowl in the Central Valley*" by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Image Editing (Bob Steele), Bird Sketching (Keith Hansen), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus 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 schedule of events and register, go to: www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/

The number of participants usually reaches near complete capacity so plan to register early if you wish to attend.

SJ Audubon Field Trip Report – Bear Creek Bike Trail, Oct. 1

At Faklis Park/Bear Creek this morning, 12 birders tackling cap-tossing breezes were rewarded with a real spectacle: well over 1000 Greater White-fronted Geese in a series of skeins, often close enough overhead for us to enjoy all the field marks. Calling out too. Most of these birds were flying north, perhaps to the Woodbridge Rd/Staten Island wintering grounds? We enjoyed Sandhill Cranes overhead as well, plus Red-tailed & Red-shouldered Hawks and a Kestrel. Four Northern Flickers also flew right overhead, one right after the other, showing off their reddish wings. Kingfishers, four species of warblers, a heard-only Virginia Rail, and Golden- and White-crowned Sparrows round out the highlights. As is usually the case here, Wrentits sang from across the slough, unseen but appreciated. Three species of Wrens weren't as cooperative as they sometimes are.

One participant got to see a couple of River Otters; this is a great location for them.

Thanks to everyone for contributing to a real migration liftoff. I will be dreaming of geese.

Good birding,
Susan Schneider

Air Quality Info Now Available In Near Real Time

The EPA's AirNow website, <https://airnow.gov>, provides local air quality info in near real-time. This is especially important in the San Joaquin Valley, where air pollution is a chronic problem. With all of the fires ravaging the state, it's even more important to be well-informed about air quality. Individuals can also sign up for automatic alerts. Check it out.

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the 21st annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 3–5, 2017, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off with an opening reception and Art Show on Friday, November 4th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.

In addition to the art show, this year's festival features field trips, workshops, presentations, live animal shows, music, children's activities, displays, vendors, and food. 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 9, 2017 - October 9, 2017
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

August 31st, Joanne Katanic and Virginia Bonham found a **Marbled Godwit** along Correia Rd.

On September 10th, Virginia Bonham reported four **Purple Finches** at Woodbridge Wilderness area in the same spot they had been seen in past years.

On the monthly census at Mokelumne Day Use Area, September 17th, Jim Rowoth spotted a young male **Hooded Merganser** with some Common Mergansers.

David Yee found an adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, October 4th at Lodi Lake.

During a Lodi Lake beginning bird walk, October 7th, Ralph Baker spotted a **Band-tailed Pigeon** in the top of a cottonwood.

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Membership

National Membership

By joining the National Audubon Society you are also a member of the San Joaquin Chapter. This includes subscriptions to the award-winning *Audubon Magazine* and to the chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. Both publications are bimonthly. For *national membership*, send check payable to the **National Audubon Society** to the address below.

- National Audubon Membership Rate: \$20

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Attn: Membership (National)
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

Local-Only Membership

This includes a subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. For *local membership*, send check payable to **San Joaquin Audubon Society** to the address below.

- Chapter Newsletter—mailed paper copy \$15
- Chapter Newsletter—electronic copy \$10

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