

THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2018
Issue 6, Volume 56

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 13
Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham, Ph.D.
"The Science in Nature"

A look at the science of nature. How does water get to the top of a tree? How do animals stay warm? Where did the gold in the Mother Lode come from? How do deer know when to grow their antlers? How do we see the natural world? These and other processes of nature will be explored.

"Doc 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 also teaches part time at Columbia College. 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 11
David Yee
"The CBC and You"

Everyone is welcome to come and get refreshed by David Yee prior to our annual Christmas Bird Counts. David will discuss the birds to be expected in our area and how to go about looking for them. It's always a rewarding evening so don't miss it!

FIELD TRIPS

FRI-SAT-SUN, Nov. 2, 3, & 4— *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 10— *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. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

THU-SUN, November 15-18— *Central Valley Birding Symposium*

Join your birding friends for the 22nd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium! 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 1— *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 8— *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. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

SUNDAY, December 9— *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 15— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

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LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the 22nd annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 2–4, 2018, 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.

FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, December 16— *Stockton Christmas Bird Count*

Join old friends and make new friends at San Joaquin Audubon's longest running and most important field activity of the year. This is citizen science at its best! We go out dawn-to-dusk 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).

SATURDAY, December 29— *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.

Reminder: 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.

Central Valley Birding Symposium

Registration is now open for the 22nd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 15–18, 2018, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley!

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, birder, and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program on "*Northern Delights*".

Friday night's keynote program "*Bird Migration: The More We Learn, The Less We Know*" will be presented by Ed Pandolfino.

Saturday night's keynote program, "*The Trade Off*" will be presented by John Kricher. In this lively and thought-provoking presentation, he will contrast the lives, ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine birds with bird species that are permanent residents of lowland tropical forests.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: "*History of Field Identification*" with Joe Morlan, "*eBird, Bird Identification, and Alternative Facts: eGads!*" by Kimball Garrett, a specimen workshop, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at these workshops: Digiscoping, Image Editing, Bird Sketching, Beginning Birding and Carving.

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, go to: <http://www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/>

CVBS Steering Committee

www.cvbirds.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our new theme is "Bring a Friend to an Audubon Field Trip," and what better time to start than when our cranes, waterfowl, and wintering songbirds like Juncos are returning? Spread the joy of the season by sharing the wonders of nature – and the fun of learning more about it.

Thanks to those who volunteered to keep our two chapter brochures stocked in our county libraries. I'm pleased to report that we now have all the branches covered. During this season of birding festivals, Christmas Bird Counts, and holidays, we value generosity and the volunteer spirit. In that regard, we mourn the loss of Audubon Board member James Rexroth, who exemplified both, and was a personal friend to many local Audubon members (including me). We celebrate all that he accomplished. He will be missed.

Take care,
Susan

In Memoriam

James Rexroth, a friend of many in the San Joaquin Audubon Society and a member of our Board of Directors, died unexpectedly September 8. James worked at Micke Grove Zoo for 27 years as a Zoo Keeper and Interim Manager. He was Coordinator of the Oak Grove Nature Center for six years and continued in retirement as a volunteer docent. James was instrumental in keeping the Nature Center open when County Parks recently threatened its closure. James was a gentle soul; fellow birders and the many he mentored remember him fondly.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

August 16, 2018 - October 1, 2018
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)
Submitted by Liz West

On August 21st, Dan Williams spotted two **Bank Swallows** within a flock of Tree Swallows foraging over the Lodi Sewage ponds.

Jim Rowoth and the Woodbridge Wilderness Area field trip led by Kasey Foley, found a **Green-tailed Towhee** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in the meadow area at Woodbridge Wilderness area on September 15th.

On September 18th, Jim Rowoth had a fleeting look at a probable **Tennessee Warbler** at Stockton Rural Cemetery.

Virginia Bonham saw two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** at the Lodi Sewage ponds on September 21st.

David Yee, on a morning visit to O'Connor Woods on September 25th, found a **Philadelphia Vireo** and **Tennessee Warbler**. Both birds were refound by Kurt Mize later that day

Joanne Katanic and Virginia Bonham reported six **Willetts** at Staten Island on September 27th.

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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjbirds/>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserves

<https://groups.io/g/calbirds>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/

<https://groups.io/g/StanislausBirds>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central-sierra-birds/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierra-nevadabirds/>

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
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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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