



THE HOOT OWL

San Joaquin Audubon Society

SEPT-OCT 1993

VOL 31 #5

- Sat. Sept. 11. Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count. 7:30. Call John Schick at 464-8304.
- Tue. Sept. 14. PROGRAM: AN ALASKA SAMPLER. We remember expert birder/photographer Ed Harper for his outstanding Montana/Yellowstone program last year. This program will feature his best work from many visits to Alaska where he leads annual birding trips. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church, Pacific & Fulton in Stockton. Bring a friend, ample parking and refreshments.
- Sat. Sept. 18. Fieldtrip: The Landbirds and Waterbirds of Lodi. Join Dave Wagner as he leads us around Lodi Lake, perhaps the best spot around to observe these birds at the peak of their migration. Also to be visited are areas to the west of Lodi for their spectacular views of shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet Dave at the end of Laurel St. off Turner Road at 8am. 943-699.
- Mon. Sept. 20. Water Our Oak Seedlings and Saplings at Oak Grove Park. 2:30pm. Call Karl Kothe at 464-1004 for a ride or meeting place etc etc.
- Sat. Oct. 2. Fieldtrip to Pt. Reyes. For the avid birder there is nothing like a trip to Pt. Reyes during the end of September. Large numbers of loons, grebes, and diving ducks with the added treat of rarities, the vagrants of the birding world. You won't be disappointed. Join Rick Peterson and Kasey Foley at 6:30 at Burns Tower U.O.P, to carpool. A full day so bring lunch, water and warm clothing. 473-3904.
- Sat. Oct 9. Another Monthly Cosumnes Bird Count. 7:30 at Schicks: Call 464-8304.
- Tue. Oct. 12. PROGRAM: MONTEREY BAY. Debi Shearwater of Shearwater Journeys will Bring Monterey Bay to us. Debi is renown as the foremost leader on pelagic trips on Monterey Bay..She has been on over 800 trips and is responsible for much current knowledge of its birdlife. Debi will entertain us with breathtaking photos of pelagic birds, mammals, seaturtles etc. as well as educate as to why the Bay is so rich in wildlife. 7:30 again at Central United Methodist Church just east of U.O.P.
- Sat. Oct. 16. Field Trip to Stillman-McGee Co. Park and Yan Assen Park. Good riparian habitat for a variety of migrating and resident species. Meet leader Jim Roweth (462-7512) at 7am in the Costco parking lot next to Pollo Poco.
- Sat/Sun. Oct. 23/24 Monterey "surf and turf" Field Trip. Following up on our August trip, this is the time to see a large number of storm-petrels & red necked grebes. Monterey Bay's mammals are great too-last year's highlight was the incredible number of dolphins. Camping is available. Call David Yee (951-1526) to reserve space and to get more details.
- Sun. Oct. 24. Field Trip to Caswell State Park. For landlubbers and those who prefer a closer to home experience, we have been invited to come along on a joint field trip with the Stanislaus Audubon. The park is in the southern area of the County and is a terrific place to observe such birds as the California thrasher and wrentits. Meet at 8:00 at the Park entrance or call Marge Fletcher at (209) 525-4256.
- Tue. Oct. 26. BROYELLI WOODS/BUCKEYE RANCH HEARING AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. Back to the Supervisors, its the ongoing saga of the sad story which could only happen here. The action by the County Planning Commission was a "ray of sunlight". Call the Clerk of the Board to see when this matter is to be heard. 4682350 Or call Conservation Chair Waldo Holt at 462-4438. Last time the was a big turnout by golfers who were promised a chance to play on the course which was cleared through the beautiful oak grove. It is your time to show up!

BIRDS:

Terry and Jean Ronneberg observed over 80 notable birds on their trip to Arizona in late July. We will give you a few highlights here, but for a complete list of dates, locations and species you need to contact Terry, ("Due to space-time limitations).

On 7-22 at Madera Canyon they observed; violet-crowned hummingbird, painted redstart, canyon towhee, broad-billed hummingbird, black-chinned hummer, magnificent hummingbird, blue-throated hummingbird, anna's hummingbird, scott's oriole, northern cardinal, pyrhaloxia, bridled titmouse. On 7-29 at Sawmill Canyon they observed buff-breasted flycatcher, eastern kingbird, grey vireo, greater pewee (oximoron bird), Grace's warbler & northern goshawk.

Elsewhere, back in May the Stockings noted a black-throated grey warbler on the Tent Meadow trail in K.C.N.P. 5-31, and a Roadrunner on Hiway 180 adjacent to a orange grove, 5-29. On 6-14 Steve Stocking & Rich Boubelik noted common nighthawk and MacGillivray's warbler at Trout Creek in Sequoia Natl. Forest and a very friendly white-breasted nuthatch at 7,500 ft Manter Meadow also in the Domelands Wilderness Area. 8-1 Larry Cote of Manteca observed a group of 3 burrowing owl near the corner of 7th and Louise.

On 8-9 Waldo and Steve observed a velvet ant at the Harney Lane Landfill.

On 8-11 a Roadrunner was observed as it watched traffic on I-5, 1.5 mi. south of Kamm Ave in Fresno County.

On 8-21 the Stockings observed osprey and common mergansers on Caples Lake and golden eagle and pine siskins nearby. Six Canada geese were on Silver Lake the next day. A larger flock of Canada geese has been on the lake and the lawn at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton during August. We know this behavior has happened elsewhere but it's the first time reported at these locales.

Bird observations at Cosumnes Preserve for August included indigo bunting, white-faced ibis, Baird's sandpiper. For information on both 1st Saturday and 2nd Saturday counts, call John Schick at 464-8304.

AND NOW SOME LOCAL NEWS

FLASH! Somewhat unclear on the concept, but labeled a success? 700 local residents had an opportunity to safely dispose of their household hazardous wastes recently in Stockton. Officials were surprised that fewer came than expected, but at the same time stated: "This time we did a little less advertizing with the idea that we would have an event that was a little smaller." If you weren't on your toes and missed this one, you can catch another one tentatively scheduled for Oct. 2 in Tracy at a site yet to be divulged.

FLASH! San Joaquin County has finally released its "San Joaquin Kit Fox Habitat Conservation Plan". This identifies an area, mostly west of the I-580 freeway and below 1,000 feet which should be protected as a "core conservation area for the endangered Kit Fox in San Joaquin County". That is the good news and you are welcome to submit comments.

The bad news is that "Unfortunately, budget and staff constraints do not permit us to do further processing of the plan at this time." (There have been deep staff cuts in the San Joaquin County Community Development Planning Department.)

FLASH! This summer the Stockton Planning Commission voted to pull back from the earlier plans to expand the limits of the city into the San Joaquin Delta and other agricultural land mostly north-west of the city. The City has no plan for how to mitigate for the impacts which this would have upon the habitat of the threatened Swainson Hawk. But now the Commission is planning to re-thinking this decision which was reached after hours of public hearings and expert testimony.

Did we know that this was too good to be true?

FLASH! Did you know that the County Park Department staff has lost its office building at the Oak Grove Regional Park to budget cutbacks in the County. There have been deep staff cutbacks as well and the remaining staff has moved into some of the back rooms at the Memorial Building in Mickie Grove Park. The office building will be rented out in an effort to get needed funds for the budget.





WHY WE NEED OLD GROWTH FORESTS

" We located 123 roost trees used by pileated woodpeckers in 1989-90 and observed roosting behavior. In all 443 instances, adult pileated woodpeckers roosted inside a cavity at night. Most of the roosts were in old-growth grand fir trees, both live and dead, that were extensively decayed by Indian paint fungus. Management recommendations include providing old-growth stands of grand fir with large-diameter grand fir infected with the fungus." Bull, Evelyn & R.S. Holthausen, & Mark G Henjum. 1992. J. of Wildlife Management. 56(4):786-793.

WHAT DO SWIFTS HAVE TO DO WITH IT ?

Twenty-one Vaux's swift nests were found in 20 hollow grand fir trees. All 20 trees were pileated woodpecker roost trees, and the swifts entered these trees through holes created by the woodpeckers. Eight-five percent of the nest trees were in oldgrowth forests. Eight nests were found within a 2-hectare area. Bull, Evelyn L & Howard D. Cooper. In: Western Birds 22:85-91.

RAVE BOOK REVIEW

Birds. by Ø. Jeunesse, C. Delafosse & R. Mettler, Cartwheel Books, Scholastic Inc. Beautiful illustrations and excellent biology. Transparent plastic pages add to the interest and understanding. There are many other books in this series designed for children from 3 to 9. Quality.



Sandhill Cranes
Grus canadensis

COSUMNES PRESERVE DOCENT TRAINING

The Cosumnes River Preserve, located in southern Sacramento County, is proud to announce a Docent Training Program to begin January 1994. Fun, informal field trips will begin in November 1993. Docents will have a choice of leading tours and/ or working inside at the soon-to-be-completed Visitor Center. If sharing and explaining nature interests you, please contact Sarah Blanchette at 916 641-1763. or 916 684-2816..

Docent training will be held at the preserve over a two-month period. Emphasis will be placed on building interpretive skills.

YOUR MYSTERY BIRD BOOK REVIEW

"A Prey to Murder" is by Ann Cleeves who is also the author of "A Bird in the Hand". This little mystery is dedicated to the wardens, volunteers, and RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) members who help to protect wild birds of prey.

Its no mystery that the author is a birder as the mystery involves a peregrine eyrie, a Wildlife Trust Open Day, and "birds of prey on their weathering ground on perches". It also concerns a body dumped in the falconry center "weathering ground", and there lies the mystery. I never did solve the mystery of exactly what this weathering ground was. It was slightly difficult to translate from the "British", but that hurdle surmounted, this light little "read" kept me interested.

STOCKTON BEAUTIFUL OAK TREE PLANTING PROJECT

It is good to have some positive news about oak trees locally. The Stockton Beautiful organization has a very active Oak Tree Committee which plans to provide one or more Valley Oak Trees to persons or organizations for planting in appropriate locations. There is no cost for the healthy 15 gallon trees, but you must have an appropriate location and agree to help with the planting and to sign an agreement to provide continuing care for the tree(s).

If you would like more information and an application write to:

Stockton Beautiful: Oak Tree Committee
3012 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, Ca. 95204

REAUTHORIZING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT; WORKSHOP

Grassroots organizing workshops hosted by the Audubon Society and the Endangered Species Coalition will be held all-day at both Davis on September 25 and Stanford on September 26. The goal of the meetings is to increase grassroots participation in the Endangered Species Act reauthorization campaign. The meetings will run from 9 am to 4:30 pm and will include discussion of topics including the following:

- How the Endangered Species Act works.
- The current political status of the ESA
- How to lobby your congressional representative on the ESA
- Grassroots organizing in the reauthorizing campaign
- Understanding the media—making it work for you
- Local perspectives on endangered species
- Coalition building—finding friends in unlikely places

Dr. Peter Moyle is expected to be a speaker. There is no cost, but please register by September 17. For more information or a copy of the registration form call National Audubon Society (916) 481-5332. Or send a note to Western Regional Office, N.A.S. 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca. 95825.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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943-6997

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—\$35 individual—\$38 family—\$20 student—\$21 senior. \$23 senior family
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236 West Knoles Way
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