



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1994 VOL. 32 #5

Sept 13. Tuesday Evening. THE ECOLOGY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN DELTA. Mike Moran of the East Bay Regional Park District will give a slide presentation on our own Delta, paying particular attention to its bird life. 7:30 Central Methodist Church across from U.O.P. Bring a guest to this, our first meeting of the 1994-1995 season

Sept 18 Sunday--MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP. Join us for the peak of fall migration on the bay. Shearwaters, storm-petrel, alcids, dolphins, and whales. \$45.00 Call David Yee at 951-1526.

Sept 24-25 Sat & Sun. PT REYES WEEKEND. This annual favorite will now include the whole weekend. Few areas in the U.S. can match the birding opportunities that lie between Bolinas Lagoon and outer Pt. Reyes. With leadership and home-cooked meals by Rich Peterson and Kasey Foley, you won't want to miss this one. Sat eve at a rented house in Bolinas. Call 473-3904 for details.

Oct, 1st. Saturday. OAK ISLAND AND TRACY SEWAGE PONDS FIELD TRIP The isolated groves of oaks on Oak Island near Tracy have been known to shelter large numbers of fall migrants. Join Terry Ronneberg as we visit this by-invitation-only hotspot. Also hit the Tracy Sewage Ponds. Meet at Heinbochel's store on Tracy Blvd. north of town at 8am. Info? 835-7847

Oct. 8th Saturday. FIELD TRIP; WHITE SLOUGH Join President Dave Wagner in an area which is rich in migrants and riparian loving species during fall. Wintering birds should be around along with many southbound migrants. Meet at the entrance to the Wildlife Area at 8:00 am 943-6997.

Oct. 11 TUESDAY EVENING; PAPUA NEW GUINEA; OUR MONTHLY PROGRAM New Guinea is the second largest island in the world and possesses some of its most distinct birds. Ducks Unlimited biologist Andy Engillis did his PhD work in Papua New Guinea. In addition to spectacular photos, Andy will talk on the ecology and the native cultural aspects of the country's avifauna. 7:30 Central Methodist Church Stockton, at Pacific and Fulton.

Oct. 15-16 MONTEREY BAY WEEKEND. Saturday by land to see warblers, flycatchers, shorebirds, etc, Sunday by boat to observe pelagics, (\$45.00). Overnight campground reserved. Call David:951-1526.

Oct 22, FIELD TRIP to LODI LAKE . See what 40 acres of prime habitat can provide in the way of fall migrants. 8:00 on Laurel Ave. on the east side of Lodi Lake Park. Contact Waldo Holt at 462-4438.

September 10. and October 8 are Cosumnes Monthly Bird Counts. John Schick: 464-8304.

September 17. Mokelumne River Clean-Up Day. Pete Bell 296-5734.

September 20. San Joaquin Audubon Board Meeting. 9436997 for info.

October 8-9 Sat Sun. WEEKEND WORKSHOP WITH JON DUNN AT SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY.

This Sacramento Audubon sponsored event is open to the public, but spaces will be very limited, so sign up early if interested. Jon is the lead author of the National Audubon Field Guide to Birds, as well as many other publications. Considered one of the top field ornithologists in North America, Jon will go through the National Geographic Field Guide and discuss difficult bird ID problems, and newly discovered info on various birds. Jon is a very accomplished speaker and teacher. Cost is \$50.00 in advance or \$65.00 at the door. Call David Yee for info 951-1526.

November Meeting: At our November meeting past president Verna Johnston will show slides and speak on her just released new book, California Forests & Woodlands (U.C. Press 1994). Meeting time and place have not been set, but our regular meeting night is election day so that won't be it. This will be a joint meeting with the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Library so check your November-December newsletter for the details. Check with your bookstore for the book.

EDUCATORS' NIGHT 1994. at MICKE GROVE ZOO

Calling all teachers, science specialists, principals, classroom aides, school secretaries, and other assorted educators. Educators Night '94 will be held at Micke Grove Zoo on Tuesday, September 13th, from 5 to 7:30 pm.

Receive FREE education materials, posters and curriculum ideas for use in your classroom, tour the Zoo grounds, get a glimpse of the snow leopard cubs, enjoy special animal presentations, snack on refreshments, and enter the drawing to win FREE educational programs for your school. Educators' Night '94 will also give you an opportunity to become familiar with the many educational programs available, visit with the education staff and discover how you can incorporate the resources of this wonderful living laboratory into your classroom curriculum. Education staff will be available to answer your questions, recommend appropriate programs to fit your curriculum needs, and book programs for the coming year.

If you are unable to attend Educators' Night '94, but would like more information about the many educational programs available, please contact Rae Alexander or Gary Nightengale in the Zoo's education office: 331-7270 or 953-8840.



BIRDS:

7-16 a Red-br sapsucker at Barney Lake, Stocking.
7-22 at Caples Lake, Cassins Finch, Pine Grosbeak
& a family of 10 Cm mergansers, plus a dead Pine
martin on Highway 88. on 7-23 a Hermit, Yellow and
Mac Gillivray's Warbler plus Gr-tailed Towhee all
on Kirkwood Creek by Linda & Steve Stocking. 7-24
Wh-pelicans at Topaz Lake on Highway 395 by the
same two observers. 7-26 found 2 Swainson Hawks
over Knowles Way in Stockton.

7-29 on the joint S.J. Audubon/Sierra Club outing to
Carson Pass MObs (including L. Loy, C. Cronin & J.
Rowoth) Red-tailed hawk, Ca gull, Williamson's
sapsucker (m), empid flycatcher, Clarks nutcrackers,
Mt. Bluebirds, Hermit thrush, Dark-eyed Juncos,
Cassins finches and one pr. Red X-bills.

During the first week in August Steve Stocking and
Rich Boubelik observed a Pine Martin being mobbed
by Juncos at Fourth Recess Lake (10,400), some
Dusky Grouse at Lower Mills Cr. Lake (11,000),
many Water Pipets and Rosy Finch at Lake Italy
(11,200), and several Townsends Solitaires below
Lower Pine Cr. Lake. We were surprised to see very
few robins and Wh-crowned sparrows which are
usually common in the high Sierra.

8-7 Dave Wagner saw a Pileated woodpecker at Big
Trees S.P. 8-9 John Blades observed a Coopers hawk
at C. M. Church. Then on 8-16 John Blades saw both
Band-tailed Pigeon & Red-br Sapsucker at Arnold. On
8-17 Dave W. noted a Wh-tailed ptarmigan at Upper
Grant Lake in Yosemite! On that same day, back here
in Stockton Nancy Greenwood ob a Bl-headed grosbeak.
8-18 Waldo Holt observed both a Whimbrel and some
Y-headed blackbirds on Medford Island. 8-20 Dennis
Smith ob 2 Kingfishers in west Stockton. and on 8-23
1994 David Yee, the holder of the San Joaquin County
record of 299 species, observed Virginia's Warbler at
Lodi Lake Park!

COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE ACTIVITIES

Cosumnes River Preserve docent training will begin
Wednesday, Sept, 21 and continue for 8 weeks. It
consists of eight Wednesday evening sessions and
four Saturday field days concluding November 5.
There is a \$20.00 training materials fee. For
further information please call (916) 6842816.

Waterbird Counts will be done every 2 weeks this
fall and winter. Generally the counts are in the
afternoon or evening and take 2-3 hours. No
special training is necessary. For more infor-
mation call Holden Brink at (916) 683-1740.

WHITE SLOUGH FIELD TRIP REPORT:

As I left the office and walked into 100 degree heat the
afternoon of July 26, I had second thoughts about the
evening bird stroll I had planned to lead for that day.
Many had already assured me of their plans to attend,
but I wondered just how many would really show up.
Our meeting time at Burns Tower, 6:15, came and
went, and not a birder in sight. I left UOP alone at
6:20, en route to White Slough itself, our second
designated meeting site.

As I turned down the dusty road to White Slough
about 6:40, ten minutes late, it soon became clear
that no one else was there. After a few minutes, I
decided to pack it in and turned homeward.
Suddenly, a cloud of dust in the distance, and Dennis
S. appeared, rearing to go, so I turned back so that
at least we two could check things out. Just as we
started in, Rich H., Yayoi S. and June N. drove up.
From one, to two, and now up to four! And quicker
than a towhee diving for cover, Foley & Peterson Inc.
arrived. Our birding posse was now complete.
Over the next two hours, we went from afternoon
skies to brilliant sunset, to darkness. Hardly any
bugs, and wonderful delta breezes. We were all
delighted at how delicious an evening it turned out
to be. We ended up with nearly 30 species. The
hands-down highlight was the low-flying flock of
about 20 white-faced ibises (yes John, ibises) that
flew right over us. Other treats included N. orioles,
W. tanagers, Bl-tailed kites, N. harriers, and B.
kingfishers. We startled several Green herons as
we ambled along, as well as a pair of roosting
Turkey vultures and a Red-shouldered hawk. The
waning afternoon light gave us great views of a pair
of Blue grosbeaks, and we were serenaded by several
C. yellowthroats and Rufous-sided towhees. Other
interesting finds were a Velvet ant, a muskrat, and
a fortunately mellow skunk. And finally, as the sun
disappeared, we had just enough light to detect a pair
of Barn owls foraging on the opposite shore. Our
"birders' night out" turned out to be an unqualified
success, worthy of trying again in the future!

(Jim Rowoth)

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES; SOCORRO N.M.

Celebrate the return of thousands of sandhill cranes,
snow geese, ducks, and rare whooping cranes to their
wintering grounds at the 57,000-acre Bosque del
Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N.M.
Nov. 17-20. Guided tours, workshops, speakers.
Receive an event catalog by contacting the Festival
at P.O. Box 743-B, Socorro NM 87801.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Some changes have now been agreed to in the State of California Endangered Species Act. We regret that some proposed changes which would have strengthened the Act, recovery and habitat plans, remain to be acted on next year since they would have been expensive. No major "gutting" took place and the misinformed rhetoric regarding Kangaroo Rats and Fairy Shrimp only resulted in public confusion.

1994 is also a critical year for the federal Endangered Species Act. There is a very real threat of weakening the Act in 1994. Representative Pombo needs to be reminded that some of his constituents favor strong protection for endangered species. Senators Feinstein and Boxer need to hear of your support for a strong, effective Endangered Species Act. S 921 (Baucus/Chafee) needs to be strengthened and HR 2043 (Studds) needs more support. **IT IS TIME TO LET THEM KNOW OF YOUR SUPPORT.**



CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT COMING IN OCTOBER

University Extension, UC Davis, offers The California Conference on Ecosystem Management: Designing with Nature, Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 25-27. The conference takes place at the Hilton Inn Convention Center in Sacramento. Topics include the management of California's land and resources in conformity with ecological, social and political realities. Practical management issues to be addressed include relations between agencies and their publics within current economic and budgetary constraints. Speakers are from governmental agencies, environmental organizations and the professional resource management community.

The fee is \$150 if you enroll before October 7, or \$170 after that date and includes course materials, lunches, a poster session and reception. Six one-day field trips are also available for an additional fee on Friday, October 28, to sites within two hours of Sacramento. To request more information, please call toll free in California (800) 752-0881.

>>Joint membership in the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to both Audubon magazine and The Hoot Owl. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to Dennis Smith 1253 S. Tuxedo Stockton, Ca. 95204. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

---\$35 individual---\$38 family---\$20 student---\$21 senior, \$23 senior family
---\$50 sustaining---\$250 contributing---\$1,500 life---\$5newsletter (non-member)

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