



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1995 VOL. 33 #5

Saturday, Sept. 9. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 7:30 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Tuesday September 12. **General Meeting** Central United Methodist Church, across Pacific Avenue from U.O.P. **700 SPECIES THROUGH THE EYE OF A CAMERA.** Master birder/photographer Ed Harper of Sacramento has not only seen over 700 species of birds in N. America, he has photographed over 700 species! We will be treated to some of Ed's best work as he shows us where he went around the continent to capture these images, and of course he will show us the beauties of the areas where he photographed. He will also touch on the use of photography in both the documentation and identification of birds. 7:30 ample parking-refreshments.

Sunday, Sept. 17. **Birding "Hot Spot" Trip.** Join Rich Peterson and Kasey Foley when they visit areas which are reported to be the best viewing on this date. Ibis, White Pelicans and Burrowing Owl are possibilities and shorebirds will be seen. But if there is a "warbler invasion" they will chase it down. Meet at 7:30 at Burns Tower of U.O.P. For information call 473-3904.

Sunday, Sept 24. **Lodi Lake Field Trip** Join Waldo Holt as he takes us to one of the best "migrant traps" in San Joaquin County during the height of migration. Waldo is an expert at identifying the many flycatchers, vireos, warblers, sparrows, and finches we will encounter. Meet at the end of Laurel St. of Turner Road at 8 for this half-day treat. 462-4438.

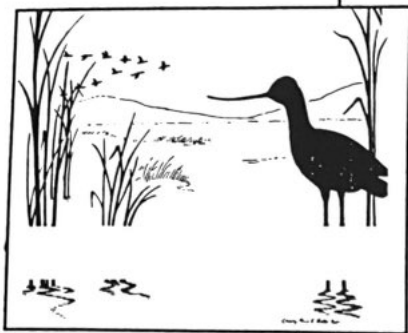
Saturdays, Oct. 7. **Point Reyes Field Trip.** Join us as we explore this renowned "migrant trap" where almost anything may show up. Overnight facilities are available in the area for those who want to make a weekend of the trip. Contact the leader, Jim Rowoth at 462-7512 for the details.

Tuesday Oct. 10. **THE FIGHT TO SAVE HEADWATERS FOREST & ITS WILDLIFE** Learn about the home of the endangered Marbled Murrelet and the role of the Endangered Species Act in the protection of the bird and its habitat. Doug Throm, both a professional photographer and environmental activist has been touring the country presenting his special photographs to alert us to the plight of the Forest and its inhabitants. He will tell us what will happen next in the Redwoods. 7:30 in the **Fellowship Hall, a new venue**, but still at Central United Methodist across from U.O.P.

Saturday, Oct. 15. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 8:30 at Willow Slough trailhead.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY OCT. 21-22. MONTEREY BAY AREA FIELD TRIP. This joint venture with Modesto and Fresno Audubons will be a sellout as usual. On one day we will bird by land to check out all the "vagrant hotspots" that Monterey is known for. These include Pt. Pinos, Salinas River, Salinas Sewage Ponds and Moss Landing. In addition to the many regulars found in the area, big-time rarities are routine this time of year. The other day will be given over to a trip on the Bay as we observe up to 6 species of shearwaters, N. Fulmar, 4 species of Storm-petrel, auklets, as well as numerous marine mammals including Humpback and Blue whales. Cost of the boat trip is \$53.00. Campsite at Pacific Grove is reserved for us. Call David Yee for more information 951-1526.

Saturday Oct. 28. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY** Want to help with an all Stockton clean-up? Call Suga Moriwaki 953-8244 W 333-8754 H. Clean a slough, a bike trail, or help wipe out graffiti!



two

BIRD OBSERVATIONS July-Aug.

July 15 Steve Stocking & associates: Williamson Sapsucker & Mt. Chickadee nesting at Hidden Lake, also 2 Mallards 7-16 Linda Stocking reported a Varied Thrush in our backyard! July 21 the Pacific Manor Swainson fledged. **July 26** a Spotted Sandpiper and Williamson Sapsuckers at Pacific Valley..Stockings. The first week of August Rich Boubelik & Steve Stocking ob Blue Grouse, many Cassin Finch, Wh-br. Nuthatch, Chipping Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Rufous Hummer and all the usual subalpine birds along Squaw Ridge in the Mokelumne Wilderness. You will need to ask John Schick what 3 days they were there, but the Ronnebergs and Schicks visited the Lassen Park area where they report 65 species including Black Throated Swift, Black Backed Woodpecker, Common Nighthawk, Cassin Finch, Osprey, Vaux Swift, Tree Swallow, and Willow Flycatcher. Many observersreported large numbers of Ibis in the Woodbridge Rd area. On **August 12**, seven birders, led by Kasey Foley, met at Big Trees and walked the south loop. We saw the following birds; Pacific Slope FLycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Hairy Woodpecker. We heard flickers and a Winter Wren. After the hike we dangled our feet in the Stanislaus River and then came home. We had fun.

On **August 19**, thirteen birders and flowers, led by Steve Stocking observed many wildflowers and a few bird species including Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Band-tailed Pigeon and Clark's Crows.

U.C.DAVIS WILDLIFE SOCIETY PRESENTS:

The Symposium will be on the subject of "Linking Academic Research and Professional Wildlife Biology Saturday October 21, 1995 from 9am to 3:30pm To be held on the U.C.Davis Campus in the Social Science building Rm 1100. Information 9734704

SPOTTED OWLS CLOSE MILLS? NOT!

Ralph Sturgeon started logging in Sonoma county in 1922 when he was 13 years old.. Sturgeon and his crews did selective cutting of redwood so that they could achieve a sustained yield of timber for their mill which continued up till he retired in about 1978. He was interviewed in the 1988(2) issue of the Journal of the Sonoma Co. Historical Society.

"We logged on the property near Duncan's Mills for 17 years, until we sold it. The way we were logging on it, we could have just always kept going. But after we sold it, they eventually came in there and just raped the damm thing. There was just nothing left. That's a hell of a way to log. Don't let nobody tell you that tere's more timber now than there ever was. That's a lot of bull." (Rush has been saying that.)

"If there was a nice group of 8 trees, we'd only take 3 of them. You see, a sustained yield is money in the bank for you. Some of these outfits now, the way they cut, it will be 80 years before they have anything standing there again. It's just a crime, a damn shame."

But if you believe the media, rather than Mr. Sturgeon, you believe that it is those "environmental regulations' which are causing the mills to be shut down. They are shutting down and putting the loggers out of work because they are not doing the sustained yield type of logging.

NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON-VANCOUVER B.C

The Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring a nine day escorted birding trip to the San Juan Island, Vancouver, B.C. area. The trip is from November 4 to November 12, 1995. Beginning bird watchers are welcome. The trip is led by the internationally known birder, David Yee & and by Sue Yee who is no slouch herself. Birds to be expected include 4 species of loon including Yellow-billed., Ancient Murrelet, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Trumpter Swan, Snowy Owl, Skylark, Northern Shrike, Am. Tree Sparrow, and hundreds of Bald Eagles and Orcas!

The cost is \$950 per person, double occupancy, and includes lodging, 17 meals, and land and ferry transportation. It does not include round trip air fare to Seattle. The reservation deadline is October 5, 1995. Contact Mary James of Gadabout Tours at (916) 455-4734 or FAX (916) 455-8116 for details.

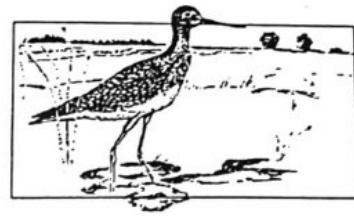
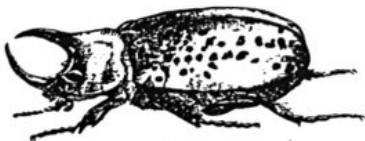
LETTER FROM our PRESIDENT

Even though summertime temperatures continue through September and well into October, the fall calendar begins with monthly chapter meetings and programs being planned. Remember to mark the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 for Audubon. David Yee and Steve Stocking are making arrangements for interesting speakers. Do plan to join with neighbors and friends who share concerns for the future of this planet for which we are the current caregivers.

For two weeks in July, I had the privilege of working with educators from other states and from Russia and the former East Germany. When asked what have been the most significant positive changes in their life since the reunification of Germany, both women responded; "the freedom to travel and the efforts to clean up the environment". The children in particular suffered ill health because of poor air quality. Wintertime snow, formerly dingy, gray from smoke from outdated factories, is much cleaner. The downside of this is an economy where many jobs have been lost as the factories were closed. Economic reports do not portray individual economic reality. Their numbers mean economic hardship for individual persons. Complex situations call for creative thinking that must include long term solutions. Too often simple bandages are offered when the needs are far greater. Long term planning for long term solutions is important. The immediate needs of persons affected negatively, however, must not be ignored.

We need to encourage the leaders of this community, this state, and this nation to take heed from the legacy that was handed down to the peoples of countries like East Germany and Russia. Environmental issues must be a part of economic planning! The health of all species, including humans, depends on carefully thought out goals which should include economic gain but should not be entirely based on profits. If you have not yet read "Soviet Pollution" in the August 1994 National Geographic, I suggest that you do. My wish is that this country will not suffer the same indignities. Current trends suggest otherwise.

(Nancy Ballot: Pres.)



MORE 'COCKAMAMIE' STORIES & THE ESA

The Senate may take up bills to "reform" the Endangered Species Act as soon as this September. The House may also act soon as it has had completed a series of field "hearings" on the ESA.

Many of the "cockamamie" stories told at these hearings were similar to the following. But you may not have heard the "story behind the story".

The "rat" and the Kern County Farmer:

A "strike force" of 25 agents swooped down by helicopter, arrested a Taiwanese immigrant farmer in Kern County and seized his tractor for killing an endangered "rat" and other endangered species when he was unaware there were protected animals on his property.

Why we "smell a rat" in this story:

In Nov 1992 the farmer was notified by registered letter from the state that there were endangered species on his property and that he needed to get permits before he developed the land. In Feb. '94 his foreman and his son were contacted by Fish and Game and asked if he had permits had been obtained. He was told to stop cultivating until they got the permits. Two more contacts were made before four agency wardens and biologists arrived to stop the plowing and to seize the tractor and disc. No helicopters were used.

The "rat" and Riverside home buyers:

The Stephens' Kangaroo Rat cost 100,000 taxpayers \$1,950 each in impact fees to raise the \$103 million needed to set aside 30 square mi. of habitat. The farmers lost up to half of their tillable acreage. One family lost \$75,000 in annual farm income.

There is more "rat" smell in this tale:

Under the Riverside County H.C.P. for the Kangaroo Rat, a mitigation fee of \$1,950 per ACRE of new development was charged to purchase permanent habitat reserves for this and other species. This helps clear the way for development in other areas of the county. This fee is about \$215 per home, or less than one-fourth of one percent of the cost of a \$95,000 home.

For more of these exaggerated stories about the Endangered Species Act

Contact your editor who will be glad to provide more examples of both the "story" and the truth behind the tale.

SOME OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

"The Bald Eagle makes a magnificent poster bird for the E.S.A.. When the act became law in 1973, the eagle hovered on the brink of extinction throughout the west. Today our national bird is a true success story-upgraded from endangered to nearly threatened."

"We spend as much to build one mile of interstate highway as we spend implementing the ESA each year." (Sunset Mar. 1995)

"How well is the E.S.A. working? Fair, insofar as only 6 out of hundreds have met with extinction. But way too slow, insofar as only 7 have completely recovered. Only half the listed species even have recovery plans drawn up for them."

"When the ESA is triggered, that typically means that the species at risk has slipped into critical condition."

"Then stringent measures are required to revive the species. This has led to regulations which have resulted in cries of 'takings' of private property rights."

If the Natl. Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act had been halfway enforced we would not be seeing so many endangered species, particularly on public lands. So the ESA, when enforced takes all the heat.

"Of 98,237 interagency consultations on projects between 1987 and 1992 just 55 were stopped cold." Natl. Geographic Mar 1995

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT NEEDS YOU. WRITE TO CONGRESSMAN POMBO, OR WRITE TO SENATORS FEINSTEIN & BOXER OR CHECK THE BLUE PAGES AND CALL THEM!

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