



# THE HOOT OWL

V V V    ▲ ▲ ▲    ^ ^ ^    ▲ ▲ ▲    V V V  
SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPT-OCT. 1997    VOL. 35 #5

Saturday, Sept. 6. Woodbridge Road Area. Esther Milnes will help you to look for the new winter arrivals for your list. Park & Ride at I-5 & Hiway 12 at 8am.

Tuesday, Sept. 9. NATURAL HISTORY OF LAKE BAIKAL. Situated in Siberia, this lake is the oldest and largest in the world. Bob Nansen has led numerous fieldtrips to this fascinating place, and will talk on its uniqueness and wildlife. He will also spend some time on the conservation issues the lake has to contend with. 7:30 at Central Methodist Church. Ample parking off Fulton across from U.O.P.

Friday, Sept. 4. "A Bird Can Fly, and So Can I...Except That". A lecture on bird anatomy and physiology. Jay Bell, Lodi Unified Science Specialist at Lodi Lake Nature Area Amphitheater. 7:30-8:45. Free park access for this presentation.

Saturday, Sept. 13 Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 6:15 at Willow Slough Trailhead.

Saturday Sept. 20. White Slough & Lodi Sewage Ponds. Rich Petersen & Kasey Foley. Winter Birds & Migrants, Use of new bird check list. Meet at Park & Ride at I-5 & Hwy 12 at 7am. Or call Rich and Kasey at 473-3904.

Saturday Sept. 27. Caswell State Park. Join Jim Rowoth at one of the hottest spots to pick up some of the rarest finds in the county. Warblers & other migrants should be moving through in big numbers. Call Jim for details at 462-7512.

Saturday Oct. 11. Monterey Boat Trip. A trip to remember led by David Yee & Debbie Shearwater. The forecast of a super El-Nino system moving in should make it a great year to pick up many rare pelagic species of birds as well as sea mammals.

Sunday Oct. 12. Monterey Area Land Bird Trip. David Yee will lead a group to find many rare species often seen in the area as well as many eastern vagrants. Call David soon at 365-1526 as space is limited so you will want to confirm a reservation.

Saturday Oct. 18. Lodi Lake. Waldo Holt will be leading us to what may prove to be the spot for record numbers of fall migrants. Meet at the end of Laurel Street in Lodi east of the Park entrance at 7:30 am.

Saturday Nov. 1 San Luis Wildlife Refuge. Dave Wagner will lead this trip for waterfowl and has arranged for the manager of the Refuge to discuss habitat restoration and show us the Tule Elk of the area. 7:30 at Burns Tower or call Dave at 943-6997.

Tuesday, Oct. 14. THE CAHOW OF BERMUDA. The Cahow is the Bermuda Storm-Petrel, which has been on the brink of extinction. Carl Burke will speak on the natural history and conservation of this most interesting species. 7:30 at Central Methodist Church off Fulton across from U.O.P. Refreshments, announcements, social interactions.

# Field Checklist of the Birds of San Joaquin County

Compiled by David Yee

Revised July 1997

by David Yee and Waldo Holt

This new field checklist revision provides seasonal abundance information for each of the 328 native and five introduced bird species that have been recorded in San Joaquin County. It is designed to slip inside your field guide.

This is the first checklist update in seven years. There have been over 80 changes between 1990 and 1997. Many of the changes are the result of much reclassification by the American Ornithologists' Union, such as: the split of Scrub Jays so that our Scrub Jay is now called the Western Scrub Jay, and the split of Rufous-sided Townees so that our Rufous-sided Towhee is again called the Spotted Towhee, etc. Other checklist changes result from the inclusion of vagrant species that we have had the fun of finding for the first time in San Joaquin County, such as: Brant, Tropical Kingbird, Northern Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, etc.

However, most of the checklist changes are of a species' abundance in a particular season, for instance the Swainson's Hawk is now known to be "rare" in the winter when seven years ago it had been considered to be "casual", or the Long-billed Curlew is now considered to be "uncommon" in the summer when seven years ago it had been considered as "fairly common", and the Western Wood-pewee has now dropped to the status of "rare summer breeding bird" when seven years ago it had been considered as an "uncommon breeder".

David Yee's comprehension of the avifauna of this corner of the world is impressive. However, dramatic changes to bird status and distribution continue to occur in the Central Valley and there is still so much that is yet to be discovered. County checklists will be available free of charge at field trips and monthly meetings.

- Waldo Holt

LWVO

## BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR JULY/AUGUST

All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County unless otherwise stated.

A new Black-crowned Night Heron rookery - as reported on TV and in the Record - in a bull' pine on Higgins Street, in urban East Stkn. A female Common Goldeneye spent the breeding season alone at LSP (m.ob.) - the first summer record for the county. Black Rails have been difficult to find, prompting questions about the breeding status of this tiny marsh bird during years of extra high water in the Delta. Two and one responded to taped calls 7/22 and 7/26 at WS (m.ob.).

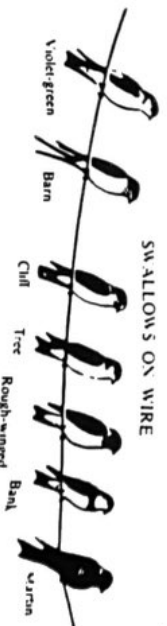
Shorebirds migrating South: A Willet was on BT 7/17 (SM). The best bird was a **Wandering Tattler** 8/20 at SSP (WRH,MFe,DGY), the fourth county record, all from SSP, the last one 13 years ago. A Marbled Godwit was on BT 8/7 (EM&FO); three Semipalmated Sandpipers (2 ad. 1 juv.) picked out among the peeps 7-16, 7-20, & 7-24 at LSP (DGY); seven Baird's Sandpipers at SSP 8/20 (m.ob.); and a Pectoral Sandpiper at LSP 8/11 (CP). Short-billed Dowitchers were often heard among the Long-billed's during the period, starting with 3 at LSP 7/14 (DGY).

A Common Poorwill was heard on Corral Hollow Rd. 7/20 (CP). Three to four Lazuli Buntings singing on territories at the end of Acampo Rd. (DGY) are the first ever to be found breeding there. It is thought that this year's high water releases on the Mokelumne River have stimulated thicker annual vegetation, making the area more suitable for nesting Lazulis. At this time of year it is curious to find a Dark-eyed Junco, recently expired, by the side of Highway 88 7/27 (DGY).

Compiled by Waldo Holt

Observer: Marc Fannar, Waldo R Holt, Ester Milnes, Suga Moriwaki, Frances Oliver, Cheri Pillsbury, David G. Yee

Abbreviations: BT=Brack Tract, LSP=Lodi Sewage Ponds, SSP=Stockton Sewage Ponds, WS=White Slough



AUGUST

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

December 4-7

LODI CRANE FESTIVAL: NOVEMBER 7-10

Join the fun as the Lodi Conference & Visitor's Bureau kicks off this inaugural family-oriented nature festival.

The festival is co-sponsored by San Joaquin Audubon, California Department of Fish and Game Children's Museum of Stockton, and a variety of other nature education, & recreation groups.

Activities will focus on the annual return of Sandhill Cranes to our area. Centered at Lodi High School, there will be a wide variety of tours throughout the area to view cranes and other delta wildlife, educational workshops and fun activities for "kids" of all ages, as well as food, music and art.

You won't want to miss this big event. You can help make this a big success by becoming a volunteer either on trips or by staffing the educational booths. For details on how to help call:

1-800-304-Lodi.

FROM THE PREZ.....BY JIM ROWOTH  
Summer'97 is coming to a close. Fall migration is well under way, some species already having disappeared from our county for the year. Many others will continue to wend their way down the Pacific flyway to their southern wintering grounds in the weeks ahead. Migration is truly an exciting time for birders, especially after the slow birding days of summer.

For Auduboners, Sept signals the resumption of monthly membership meetings. Everyone is invited to this exciting variety of programs on bird related topics of local and worldwide interest.

Our new fieldtrip chair, Rich Petersen has big plans for this year. We will continue to visit our favorite local haunts with an emphasis on San Joaquin County as the "Big Year '97" winds down.

The end of the year will see two new bird-related firsts for us here locally with the Lodi Crane Festival on Nov. 7-10 and, for hard core birders, the Central Valley Birding Symposium on Dec 4-7.

There will be an exciting birding workshop coming to Stockton in December. There will be great speakers like Kenn Kaufman, K. Garrett, Jesse Grantham who spoke to us about gardening for hummingbirds and Bob Stewart who was our butterfly speaker. There will also be local talent like Don & Kathy Crump who have spoken to us several times about the great work they do with their raptor rehab program. THE Keith Hansen who designed our wonderful San Joaquin Audubon-T shirts will be there showing us how to sketch birds in the field. A taste of some of the workshops include Warbler ID, Hummingbird ID, Sparrow ID, Shorebird ID and bird Photography. In addition to the workshops there will be programs focusing on Swainson Hawks in the Central Valley, Birds of the Tulare Basin, Gardening for Birds, Ca. Butterflies and more.

Because this will be held the first weekend in December you can do your Christmas shopping too. There will be booths selling art and crafts from local bird artists Tim Manolis and Keith Hansen as well as booths for other vendors so you can scope out all the newest birding appurtenances.

MONO LAKE FIELD TRIP REPORT

Jim Rowoth organized the July 25-27 trip which has become a gourmet delight thanks to the talents of Rich Petersen & Margaret Williams.

Seven members and guests enjoyed the beautiful scenery as well as a canoe trip around the tufa on Mono Lake, a day at Bodie and a drive to Lundy Canyon. More than 70 species of birds were observed including Rosy Finches, Goshawk and Rufous Hummingbird east of Tioga. Sage Thrasher, Violet Green Swallows, and Sage Sparrow at the Forest Service Visitor Center and a family of Virginia Rails, a Sora and hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes at the county park. A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers and a Gray Flycatcher were spotted in the wooded area at Mono Mills. (Nancy Ballot)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK OCT. 12-18

There are now many events being planned for next fall's Refuge Week. We have many wonderful refuges in Central California which both protect wildlife and provide for recreation. One way you can support them is to happily pay the \$3 day pass fee or purchase a \$12 annual pass when you visit a National Wildlife Refuge. 100% of the money will go to the refuges. There are auto tour routes and hiking trails..and at some like Sacramento NWR, a visitor center staffed by volunteers.

SATURDAY, SEPT 13. Fall Migrant Walk at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. 10am to 12:30pm. Elk Grove Blvd. exit west from I-5. Shorebirds ducks and others.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10. FUND RAISER FOR STONE LAKE REFUGE. Food, wine, silent auction to raise money for a viewing platform in the refuge. Ticket info & location: 979-2085.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12. WALK ON THE WILDSIDE, tours, presentations, exhibits, food and drink. from 9am to 4 pm. Recorded message for more information: 979-2085.

Entrance is on Freeport Blvd. 2 miles south of Freeport, opposite Cliff's Marina.

SATURDAY OCT. 18. BIRDS NEED CLEAN WATER TOO, CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT!

AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

July 6-12 1998. ESTES PARK CENTER/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES. programs for all ages field trips with expert leaders, leadership training, learning lab. phone 303-499-3622. Fax 303-499-0286 e-mail convention@ audubon.

Stockton

Audubon Society

- President: Jim Rowoth 462-7512
- President Elect: Russ Stoddart
- Secretary: Margaret Williams
- Treasurer: Dennis Smith
- Board Members: Nancy Ballot, Kasey Foley, Esther Milnes
- Field Trips: Rich Petersen
- Conservation Chair: Waldo Holt
- Membership: Kasey Foley
- Editor: Steve Stocking

>>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)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY  
236 West Knoles Way  
Stockton, CA. 95204

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Stockton, CA.  
Permit No.450

Hospitality: Nancy Greenwood  
Programs: David Yee  
**THE HOOT OWL**  
Published 6 times  
a year by the  
**STOCKTON AUDUBON  
SOCIETY. 236 West  
Knoles Way Stockton  
California 95204**