

THE HOOT OWL



September / October 2007
Issue 5, Volume 45

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

Meetings

The **NEW** 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, September 11

Chris Conard

"The Bufferlands"

With a bird list of 224 species and growing, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands is a bright spot for conservation in one of the Central Valley's most rapidly developing areas. Chris will give an overview of the project, share highlights from over ten years of personal observations, and show photos of the birds and habitat at the Bufferlands.

Chris Conard is a Natural Resource Specialist with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He also serves as the Sacramento County editor for *North American Birds*, a Central Valley Bird Club board member, and as a volunteer with Sacramento Audubon Society and the Cosumnes River Preserve.

TUESDAY, October 8

Arthur Shapiro and Tim Manolis

"Butterflies in the Central Valley"

Please join the San Joaquin Audubon Society and the Delta-Sierra Group of the Sierra Club for our third annual joint meeting. This month our meeting features the co-authors of the brand new *Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions* (University of California Press, 2007) Arthur M. Shapiro and Timothy D. Manolis who will share their extensive knowledge of butterflies in the Central Valley.

Arthur M. Shapiro is professor of evolution and ecology at the University of California, Davis. Arthur received his BA in biology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1966 and his PhD in entomology from Cornell University in 1970.

Timothy D. Manolis is an artist, illustrator, and biological consultant who received his PhD in biology from the University of Colorado. He is the author and illustrator of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California* (University of California Press, 2003). Timothy is the former president of the Central Valley Bird Club and current editor of the *Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin*.

Field Trips

Bad weather (rain, dense fog, strong winds) cancels trips,

SATURDAY, September 1—Beginning Bird Watching

Join leader Dave Wagner 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, September 8—River Walk, Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader John Schick conducts bird census walks through this excellent habitat on a monthly basis. The walk covers about four miles and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. Meet John at the visitor center at 6:30 a.m. To get there, take I-5 north to Twin Cities Rd., go east to Franklin Blvd., then south on Franklin to the visitor center. Please call John in advance at 464-8304 to confirm date and time.

SATURDAY, September 15—Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve

John Trochet makes a monthly census of this spectacular forested area on the Cosumnes River Preserve. A variety of birds and mammals can be expected on this morning walk. Meet John at the Farm Center gate, at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, at 6:30 a.m. Please call the Cosumnes River Preserve number (916) 284-2816, ext #5, or check the website at <http://www.cosumnes.org> (refer to the schedules section) a few days prior to confirm the meeting time and location - in the past, the trip has been canceled due to floods.

SATURDAY, October 6—Beginning Bird Watching

Same time and place as in September. Join leader Kasey Foley for an educational walk through the shaded lanes of the Lodi Lake nature area.

SUNDAY, October 7—Caswell Memorial State Park

Join leaders Mark and Lorna Elness (209) 629-4673 on Sunday, October 7th at 8am for a leisurely stroll through this riparian jewel. There is a \$6 per vehicle day use fee, so carpooling is encouraged. Bring insect repellent. Caswell SP is located at the south end of Austin Rd. in San Joaquin County. Rain cancels.

Sunday, October 14—Stockton Rural Cemetery

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for a stroll through Stockton's history while we look for early winter arrivals and the resident birds. We will meet at the main gate, which is at the north end of Cemetery Lane which runs behind St. Joseph's Hospital.



WALDO HOLT

December 16, 1948 – July 11, 2007

San Joaquin Audubon suffered the loss of a very dear friend and colleague when long-time Conservation Chair Waldo Holt lost his battle with cancer on July 11 of this year, and the citizens of San Joaquin County lost a stalwart and dedicated defender of habitat and wildlife. He was more than just the “gentle giant” of conservation in San Joaquin County. Many of us will remember Waldo as a good man who did a lot of good things for wildlife and for us. He led by example and his good work will live on if we recall and remember those lessons. Here follow some of what those of us who worked with him in Audubon recall.

“Waldo was certainly larger than life and we all are better for knowing him. I already miss him so much.”
Kasey Foley: Audubon

“For Waldo my words are few but my thoughts are many. He was such an effective member of the environmental community. It has been an honor to know him and to learn from him. It is fortunate for our feathered and furry friends that there has been this rare person who valued the natural world and spoke and acted with determination to protect them.”
Nan Ballot: Audubon/Sierra Club

“There was a Swainson’s Hawk nest in a tree and a very tall, larger than life man softly talking and standing in front of the bulldozer, nose to nose with the driver, and telling him he could not go any closer!!!!!! Waldo stood his ground, the driver backed off and there was a peaceful settlement to what could have gotten really ugly. From then on Waldo was as much of my experience with birding and Audubon as anyone. He was patient, asked any and all questions, and taught me patience when it came to observing birds.”
Margaret Williams: Past President, S.J. Audubon

“I was going to say that Waldo was a man of few words, but those of us who sat through his conservation reports at Audubon board meetings know he could really talk, especially when he was passionate about something! What Waldo did do was choose his words carefully, a skill that served him well in his battles with government agencies and developers, as well as with beginning birders, whom he shepherded on many a walk at Lodi Lake. His knowledge of the status and distribution of birds in San Joaquin County was encyclopedic, and he was always one of the first people I called when I had a “sighting.” If the sighting was questionable (and they often were), Waldo knew all the right questions to ask. Waldo was a well-loved fixture of our club, with a towering presence, a soft-spoken manner, a wry smile, a keen sense of humor, and a twinkle in his eye that always made you wonder what he was really thinking. He will be sorely missed.”
Kurt Mize: Past President, Newsletter Editor, S.J. Audubon

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY 2007

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 7, 8, and 9

Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove

Theme 2007: Global Warming and Wildlife

Hosted by Audubon California

The Audubon California Assembly brings together over 300 chapter leaders, birders, scientists, volunteers, grassroots activists and staff for three days on the Monterey Bay.

For over 100 years, Audubon has conserved and restored natural ecosystems. Now, we prepare to face the challenge warming temperatures presents to our beloved landscapes and species. The 2007 Assembly will examine the problems of global warming from a wildlife and ecosystem perspective and help us understand how global warming should affect our land management decisions. The Assembly will spotlight climate solutions from conserving energy with simple changes around the home, to reaching an 80 percent national reduction of greenhouse gases.

At the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, participants will have an opportunity to attend a wonderful variety of interactive workshops on restoration, policy and education; and meet renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of effective conservation of California's birds, wildlife and habitat. World class birding, pelagic and condor field trips, and so much more, will make the Assembly an unforgettable experience. We welcome old friends and first time attendees!

For more information, or for questions about registration and scheduling, please contact: Claudia Eyzaguirre, ceyzaguirre@audubon.org, phone (510) 601-1866 ext.3, or see www.ca.audubon.org/audubon_assembly.html

Waldo Holt Remembered *(continued from page 2)*

"Waldo had wise insights and made you want to believe that the world could be a better place. He had a good sense of humor. The world seems a bit darker without him here."

Diane Park: League of Women Voters, Audubon member

"Waldo returned to school at Delta when he became interested in Swainson's Hawks. He wanted to learn more about them to both understand and to protect them. I can't think of another of my students who had a greater impact on me. He reinvigorated my interest in wildlife protection. We then worked together on many efforts to protect local species and their habitats. Waldo was very principled and could get quite perturbed when his path crossed that of those who didn't share those principals. Once "experts" from a Bay area university issued a report that no Swainson's Hawks nested at the Oak Grove Park. The experts had looked at the wrong season, when the hawks had left for Central America. We called these experts "biastitutes". He did not tolerate those who were in it for selfish reasons. Waldo was a good person who died much too soon. I can't wait to tell him about all of the Wilson's Phalaropes I just saw at Mono Lake."

Steve Stocking: retired Audubon & Sierra Club leader.

"Waldo was hard on optics. He spent a lot of time on the water in the Delta monitoring its birdlife. Early on as Audubon Conservation Chair he acquired possession of the society's old Spacemaster spotting scope and tripod. It didn't take long for this to tip out of the boat and disappear into the delta's murky waters. This was not to be the last piece of birding optics that went into the drink from his hands. Waldo was not a small man. He used to grouse at the need to bend over to look through his scope, perched atop the usual tripod. He was overjoyed when he stumbled across an unusually tall tripod which allowed him to set up his scope and view birds while standing up straight. Of course, no one else could look through it, but he loved his "highboy"! He delighted in finding a bird in his scope then inviting a more altitudinally challenged birder to take a look. Waldo's annual mid-week April hummingbird trip to Kiln Canyon has long been a highlight of the local birding scene. Hummers, roadrunners, thrashers amid the blooming sage as well as rattlesnakes and roaring dirt bikes and clouds of dust...ah! Talk about your good times!

Jim Rowoth: Past Audubon President, Field Trip Leader

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Jerre Murphy President
Walt McInnis Secretary
Dennis Smith Treasurer
Kasey Foley Membership, Website
Kurt Mize Newsletter Editor
Jim Rowoth Director at Large
Lorna Elness Director at Large
Liz West Director at Large
Dave Wagner Director at Large
Alan England Director-in-waiting

Steve Stocking Education
Sandi Schoeppe Hospitality
Cheri Pillsbury Listserve Moderator
New website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Calif. Bird Alerts

Central Valley 916-783-2331
No. California 415-681-7422
Monterey 831-626-6605
Morro Bay 805-528-7182
Santa Barbara 805-964-8240
Los Angeles 323-874-1318
San Diego 619-688-2473

Joint membership in National Audubon and San Joaquin chapter includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

San Joaquin Audubon
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

(Renewals should be mailed directly to National Audubon per renewal notice.)

Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
Basic Family;	\$35	Lifetime (ind.):	\$1000
Newsletter only: (non-member)	\$10	Lifetime (fam.):	\$1500

Notice: "Newsletter only" yearly dues have increased

Name _____

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