

# THE HOOT OWL



September / October 2008  
Issue 5, Volume 46

## Meetings

Monthly meetings are at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begin at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

**TUESDAY, September 9, 2008**

**Ed Pandolfino, *Raptors of the Central Valley***

Seventeen different species of hawks and eagles can be found regularly in our area and winter is the best time to go looking for most of these species. Both the diversity and the abundance of hawks increase dramatically in winter in the Central Valley. If you have trouble telling some of the different species apart (Is that a Rough-legged Hawk or just another Red-tail?), this presentation will provide you the information you need to start sorting them out. With winter approaching, now is the time to get ready.

If you want to get the most out of the meeting, spend a little time studying the common raptor species in your field guide. Since we only learn by doing, Ed will give a (self-graded) photo quiz, so bring along a pencil and paper. Also, **BRING YOUR BINOCULARS.**

Ed Pandolfino is on the board of Sierra Foothills Audubon Society and serves as its Placer County Conservation Chair. He is also on the board of Western Field Ornithologists and is one of the Regional Editors for northern California for the publication, *North American Birds*. Ed's professional experience has ranged from touring as a drummer for Rock 'n Roll bands, to post-doctoral research in biochemistry to running divisions of a major medical device company. Since retiring in 1999, Ed splits his time between local conservation work and birding all over the state of California.

**TUESDAY, October 14, 2008**

**Vance Russell, *Landowner Stewardship Program***

**Joint meeting with Delta-Sierra Group of Sierra Club**

Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program works with private landowners to conserve and restore wildlife habitat on farms and ranches in a manner compatible with existing agricultural operations. Long-term program goals are to enhance and restore riparian, oak woodland and grassland habitats, improve forage quality, improve water quality and reduce erosion. See: <http://ca.audubon.org/lsp>.

Vance Russell directs this program. He has over 20 years experience working in agriculture and natural resources management in the United States and in Latin America. He is one of the founding members of the Wild Farm Alliance and currently serves on its board of directors. Vance co-authored *Wild Harvest – Farming for Wildlife and Profitability* which details the importance of conservation incentives for landowners and *Maximum Yield? Sustainable Agriculture as a Tool for Conservation*, which examines the relationship between agriculture and conservation. Prior to working with Audubon he worked at the World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy. Vance has a Masters in Natural Resources Management (Cornell) and B.A. in Biology (College of Wooster).

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

## Field Trips

**SATURDAY, September 6—*Beginning Bird Watching***

Join leader Jim Rowoth at 8 a.m. and stroll the trails of the Lodi Lake "wilderness" area. Meet at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (east of Lodi Lake Park off of Turner Road). Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding basics.

**SATURDAY, September 13—*Consumnes River Preserve***

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at Toot Sweets, March Lane & Quail Lakes Dr., for carpooling; or at the Consumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The Consumnes River Preserve is one of the finest valley oak riparian forests in California. We will seek migrating warblers and other riparian species on the Willow Slough Trail and also spend some time on the Lost Slough Boardwalk to view a variety of water birds including early fall arrivals of shorebirds, ducks, geese, and cranes. Contact leader Dave Wagner, 943-6997, [dajwagner@aol.com](mailto:dajwagner@aol.com) for more information.

**SATURDAY, September 20—*Caswell State Park***

Join leader Lorna Elness (209-629-4673) as we amble through this riparian jewel. As there is vehicle day use fee, carpooling is encouraged. Bring insect repellent. Caswell SP is located at the south end of Austin Road in San Joaquin County. Rain cancels.

**SATURDAY, October 4—*Beginning Bird Watching***

Join leader Liz West at 8 a.m. on Laurel Ave. next to Lodi Lake (see September 6 above for more details).

**SATURDAY, October 11—*Heritage Oaks***

Join leader Jim Rowoth ([rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net), 9562648) for this visit to private property along the north bank of the Mokelumne River near Victor. The varied habitat should afford a nice variety of native and migrant species. Please contact Jim in advance for meeting time and place.

## Delta College Offers Birding Workshop

Delta College will offer a short course on the basics of birding this fall, *Birding 101*. Jim Rowoth will lead discussions of the tools of the trade, local birds and bird watching locales, and help participants sharpen their ability to ID birds in the field. Classes will meet five Saturdays between September 29 and November 15 and will include local field trips. Find out more and enroll by visiting [www.adultedreg.com/delta/](http://www.adultedreg.com/delta/). Follow the link, "For the birds".

## NEWS AND NOTES

### SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The *12th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival* will be held November 7-9, 2008, at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi California. The Festival includes Exhibits, tours, demonstrations, workshops, kid's programs, and an Art/Photo Contest & Show. Visit the website: [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com) or call the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival at: 800 581-6150 (Bill Clough)

### ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

It's time to have some fun again! *The 12th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium* will be held Nov. 20-23 in Stockton, Ca.

NOTE: We're back at the Stockton Grand Hotel (a Hilton property).

Our evening programs include Hans Peeters "Owls of California and the West" and John Muir Laws "Exploring the Sierra Nevada as a Naturalist and Artist". We have many workshops such as, "Raptor ID" by Joe Morlan, "Bird ID" by Jon Dunn, "Bird and Nature Digiscoping" by Clay Taylor, drawing workshops with John Muir Laws, our always popular and informative ID Panel with the guest experts, and more.

We have programs for beginning birders and for people who want to make their gardens bird-friendly. Field trips frequently turn up chasable goodies. The Birder's Market is full of artists and vendors with so many wonderful bird and nature related items that you'll be tempted to max out your credit cards. For more info, check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 369-2010.

Come and bird your problems away. See you there!

Cheri Pillsbury

Central Valley Birding Symposium

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON PROGRAMS

November 11, 2008	Mt. Lassen and its Bird Banding Program
December 9, 2008	Christmas Count Bird ID Review and Preparation

### GREAT GREY OWL HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

This August a project will begin to "evaluate artificial nest structures in suitable habitat areas to increase habitat value for this sensitive, rare, and locally important species". The project is being developed in conjunction with a regional survey effort. (From information provided by the USDA Forest Service: Stanislaus National Forest.)

### SAVING THE WORLD'S LARGEST TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD COLONY

Audubon California announced in May that it had reached an agreement with a farmer in Tulare County to safeguard a single colony of 80,000 Tricolored Blackbirds which amounts to nearly a third of the world's population of this declining songbird. The farmer agreed to delay the harvest of 160 acres where the colony had established a nesting colony. Audubon California agreed to compensate the farmer if there was a reduction in the value of the crop. The agreement was voluntary and the farmer wished to remain anonymous.

There have been many efforts made to give a protected designation to this species but all have been defeated by special interests. Waldo Holt was always interested in Tricolored Blackbirds and he located smaller colonies near Linden and Milton which have since disappeared. It is a shame that a similar protection given the blackbird colony could not have been given to a nesting colony of Ibis which was destroyed by harvesting in the Grassland area this spring. (modified from Audubon California)

### BIRD CLASSIFICATION REVISION

"The relationship among bird families and orders have been difficult to establish due to the availability of a relatively limited number of samples of DNA sequences". This article reports on a phylogenetic analysis of 25 kilobases of nuclear DNA sequences per species representing multiple chromosomes, genes, and noncoding regions of genomes in the class Aves.

You can expect many changes in bird classification based on this study as many species were found not to be as closely related as would be indicated by their external appearance. (Science Vol.320 (5884) Pg, 1763 June 2008)

Provided by Steve Stocking, Education Chair



**RIVER WALK (formerly Willow Slough)**  
**SAT., September 13 at 6:30 a.m., and SAT.,**  
**October 11 at 7:00 a.m.** Meet at the Visitor's  
 Center.

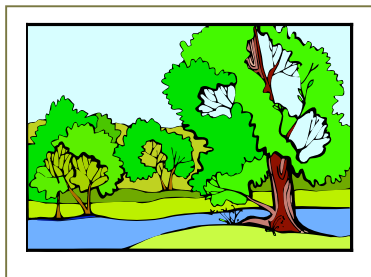
With John Schick (209)464-8304

**TALL FOREST**

**SAT., September 20, at 6:30 a.m., and SAT.,**  
**October 18, at 7:00 a.m.** Meet at the Farm  
 Center.

With John Trochet (916)684-2816, ext. 5

*Please call as schedules often change*



**MOKELUMNE  
 RIVER  
 MONTHLY BIRD  
 CENSUS**

**LODI LAKE**

September and October dates uncertain at time of printing.  
 Contact Kurt Mize, 957-0676, for more information.

**MOKELUMNE RIVER DAY USE AREA**

September and October dates uncertain at time of printing.  
 Contact Liz West, 744-0218, for more information.

**STILLMAN MAGEE COUNTY PARK**

September and October dates uncertain at time of printing.  
 Contact Jim Rowoth, 956-2648, for more information.

*Please call as schedules often change*

**OAK GROVE REGIONAL PARK—MONTHLY SURVEY**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.. For experienced birders. Contact leader  
 Dave Wagner, 943-6997, [dajwagner@aol.com](mailto:dajwagner@aol.com) for more information.

**MORE NEWS . . .**

This article appeared in a June 3rd, 2008 Audubon California bulletin:

**Voter Defeat of Prop. 98 is a Tremendous Victory for Environmental Protection in California**

Sacramento, CA -- Representatives of Audubon California today declared the voters' rejection of Proposition 98 as a tremendous victory for environmental protection in California. Audubon California had rallied Audubon members and allies to vote against the measure, and made a significant financial and organizational contribution to the opposition. "If this proposition had passed, it would have been devastating to California communities and the environment," said Dan Taylor, director of public policy for Audubon California. "This measure had a hidden and dangerous agenda to destroy important laws and regulations that protect California's critical birds, wildlife and habitat, and we're glad that voters saw through it."

Proposition 98 would have prohibited laws and regulations that "transfer an economic benefit to one or more private persons at the expense of the private owner," negating virtually all environmental regulations and land-use oversight. In short, the measure would have gutted environmental protections that Californians have come to depend upon to protect their natural treasures.

"This is a big win for any one who cares deeply about the natural resources that are so vital to California's identity," added Taylor.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS**

June – August 2008

Compiled by Liz West

- ✓ On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, an osprey visited Kasey Foley's backyard. She said, one had appeared the first year that she lived in the house but she wasn't able to get a photo of it.
- ✓ During the July 20th Mokelumne fish hatchery census Joanne Katanic and I saw an out of season Wilson's warbler. Joanne mentioned it was the same place that Jim had seen a Wilson's warbler in May.
- ✓ There is a correction in the bird sightings of the June/July newsletter, it was Dan Williams, not Liz West, who found the sage thrasher along Thornton Rd.

# San Joaquin Audubon Society

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New website: [www.sanjoquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Bird Alerts

Central Valley	916-783-2331
No. California	415-681-7422
Monterey	831-626-6605
Morro Bay	805-528-7182
So. California	818-952-5502
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: \$10 (non-member)	Lifetime (fam.): \$1500

Notice: "Newsletter only" yearly dues have increased

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P.O. Box 7755  
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