

# THE HOOT OWL

September / October 2012  
Issue 5, Volume 50

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

## PROGRAMS

The 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 18**  
**(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

David Lukas

*"The Mystery of Bird Song"*

How do birds learn to sing such beautiful songs? And why do they produce so many different types of vocalizations? David Lukas will help answer some of these questions and share his insights into the magical world of bird song—from the ways we study bird song, to the anatomy of how birds produce sounds, to some of the social behaviors that explain common bird vocalizations.

David Lukas is a California naturalist and the author of six books, including *Sierra Nevada Birds* and *Sierra Nevada Natural History*. David grew up in Oregon but has been living in the Sierra Nevada and leading bird programs in California for nearly 20 years. His newest book is called *Bay Area Birds* and it is the first comprehensive guide to the status, life history, and distribution of all the birds that occur in the Bay Area ([www.lukasguides.com](http://www.lukasguides.com)). Visit David's website for deals on his newly published guide *Bay Area Birds*.

**TUESDAY, October 9**  
**(JOINT MEETING WITH SIERRA CLUB)**

David and Janet Carle

*"Traveling the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, A Water Line Around the World"*

Between extremes of climate farther north and south, the 38<sup>th</sup> North parallel line marks a temperate, middle latitude where human societies have thrived since the beginning of civilization. It divides North and South Korea, passes through Athens and San Francisco, and bisects Mono Lake in the eastern Sierra Nevada,

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## FIELD TRIPS

**SATURDAY, September 1—*Introductory Birding Field Trip***

Join leader Dale Smith 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. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

**SATURDAY, September 8—*Cosumnes River Preserve***

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of this preserve in southern Sacramento County. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. at 6:00 a.m. Check website [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org) for last minute updates.

**SATURDAY, September 15—*Woodbridge Wilderness Area***

Join leader Jim Rowoth for our monthly census of this beautiful little riparian area on the lower Mokelumne River. Meet Jim at the north end of Meadowlark Lane, off of Woodbridge Road, in the town of Woodbridge, at 8:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, September 16—*Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery***

Meet leader Liz West in the fish hatchery parking lot (below the dam) at 8:00 a.m. for her monthly census of this delightful riparian oasis below Camanche Dam.

**SUNDAY, September 23—*Stockton Rural Cemetery***

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a morning visit to the beautiful and historic Stockton Rural Cemetery. Meet him at the office inside the gates at 8:00 a.m. We'll be on the lookout for fall migrants and resident species alike.

**SATURDAY, October 6—*Introductory Birding Field Trip***

Join leader Dale Smith 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. This will be a leisurely stroll of about a mile on the level trails of the Lodi Lake "Wilderness" Area. All are welcome. Extra binoculars will be available.

**SATURDAY, October 13—*Cosumnes River Preserve***

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) for the monthly River Walk bird count at CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. at 6:00 a.m. Check website [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org) for last minute updates.

**SUNDAY, October 14—*Stockton Rural Cemetery***

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a morning prowl at one of his favorite "haunts" – the historic Stockton Rural Cemetery. Meet Jim at the office inside the gates at 8:00 a.m. We'll be on the lookout for lingering migrants and winter visitors, as well as the usual suspects.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## PROGRAMS

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where authors David and Janet Carle make their home. Former park rangers, the authors set out on an around-the-world journey in search of water-related environmental and cultural intersections along the 38th parallel. This book is a chronicle of their adventures as they meet people confronting challenges in water supply, pollution, wetlands loss, and habitat protection. At the heart of the narrative are the riveting stories of the passionate individuals—scientists, educators, and local activists—who are struggling to preserve some of the world's most amazing, yet threatened, landscapes.

Traveling largely outside of cities, away from well-beaten tourist tracks, the authors cross Japan, Korea, China, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Greece, Sicily, Spain, Portugal, the Azores Islands, and the United States—from Chesapeake Bay to San Francisco Bay. The stories they gather provide stark contrasts as well as reaffirming similarities across diverse cultures. Illustrated with photos from the authors' travels, *The 38th Parallel* documents devastating environmental losses but also inspiring gains made through the efforts of dedicated individuals working against the odds to protect these fragile places.

David and Janet Carle were state park rangers at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve for twenty years and have taught at Cerro Coso Community College in Mammoth Lakes. Janet is the editor of the California State Park Rangers Association journal, *The Wave*. David is the author of numerous books, including *Introduction to Earth, Soil and Land in California*, *Introduction to Water in California*, *Introduction to Fire In California*, and *Introduction to Air in California* (all by UC Press).

## I'M FOR THE RIVER

I am a lifelong resident of the San Joaquin Valley and have spent much of my life out in nature. Of course my favorite pastime is watching the wildlife, especially bird watching. My family and I still enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, and camping along many of our water ways.

As residents of the Central Valley we understand how important water ways are to our communities, our wildlife, our famers, and our peace of mind. That is why my friends at San Joaquin Audubon and I feel strongly that we need to help support the San Joaquin River Restoration Project. We need to help restore and maintain a healthy river that will continue to provide recreation for families, food for our tables, and a place for the wildlife to live.

Please take a moment to contact our representatives and let them know that the San Joaquin River Restoration Project is important to you too. Come to our general membership meeting or on a field trip, and fill out a post card, write a letter, or send an email [[www.imfortheriver.org](http://www.imfortheriver.org)] to let our Senators know that we care about our river. Thank you.

Lorna Elness,  
President, San Joaquin Audubon Society

## FIELD TRIPS

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### SATURDAY, October 20— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Jim Rowoth for our monthly census of this hidden gem of a riparian area on the lower Mokelumne River. Meet Jim at the north end of Meadowlark Lane, off of Woodbridge Road, in the town of Woodbridge, at 8:00 a.m.

### SUNDAY, October 21— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Meet leader Liz West in the fish hatchery parking lot (below the dam) at 8:00 a.m. for her monthly census of the lovely day-use area below Camanche Dam.

## BIRDING 101

At San Joaquin Delta Junior College

Jim Rowoth will again be offering his beginning birding workshop, **Birding 101**, starting Oct 6. Over the following next weeks, participants will learn the basics of birding through classroom discussions and excursions in the field. Learn more and sign up at [www.adultedreg.com/delta/](http://www.adultedreg.com/delta/)

## CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

November 15-18, 2012

Mark your calendars for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium! This event is always one of the highlights of the birding year, and this year is no exception. We've got a full slate of keynotes, programs, workshops, and field trips, not to mention the ever popular Birder's Marketplace! Join us for a great time with great friends, old and new! For more info, please check out the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org).

## BIRD FEATHERS

A comparative analysis of Xiaotingia zhergi (a Cornish-hen-sized feathered dinosaur from the late Jurassic) and its close relative Archaeopteryx with modern birds using computer software to examine evolutionary relationships has ousted Archaeopteryx from its well-known place as the earliest dinosaur relative of modern birds. Based on 374 skeletal characteristics, the recently discovered Epidexipteryx (a small dinosaur with four long tail feathers) now takes the place of Archaeopteryx as the earliest known dinosaur relative of modern birds. (Jan 2012 Discover)

Microscopic analysis of a piece of 80-million year old amber showed minute inclusions with the characteristics of true feathers. This prompted a study of some 150,000 pieces of amber, which turned up 11 stunning feather samples from the Late Cretaceous. Some specimens were adapted for flight and diving. (Jan 2012 Discover)

As a blue feather grows, something amazing happens. Inside each cell, stringy keratin molecules separate from water. When the cell dies, the water dries away and is replaced by air, leaving a structure of keratin protein interspersed with air pockets, like a box of spaghetti. When white light strikes a blue feather, the keratin pattern causes red and yellow wave lengths to cancel each other out, while blue wavelengths of light reinforce and amplify one another and reflect back to the beholder's eye. The result: blue, an example of what scientists call a structural color because it is generated by light interacting with a feather's 3-D arrangement. (March 2012 Smithsonian)

Bald Eagles have over 7,000 feathers. If you weighed all the feathers and then the bones, the feathers would weigh more! They are also very good swimmers. If they can't lift their prey from the water they will swim to shore with it. (Summer 2012 Big Tree Bulletin)

Steve Stocking Education Chair

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

*June 19, 2012 - August 16, 2012*

*(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)*

Submitted by Liz West

On June 24<sup>th</sup> Terry Ronneberg saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** fly into a Salt Cedar tree at the Tracy Sewage ponds. He was able to observe it through a spotting scope before it disappeared into the tree, not to be found again. There was also a **Blue-winged Teal** present. The teal was last seen July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Virginia Bonham, Joanne Katanic, and Sue Murphy found three **Cassin's Kingbirds** at the Tracy Golf Club, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, while riding on Amtrak, Tony Kurz saw a **Tri-colored Heron** near Holt. It was not re located by anyone else.

Terry Ronneberg found two **Bank Swallows** at the Tracy Sewage ponds, his first ever there, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
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*New website:* [www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Birding E-mail Discussion Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Calbirds>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjbirds/>  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central\\_valley\\_birds/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/)  
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierra-nevadabirds/>

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 C2ZC220Z  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

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*The Hoot Owl* is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.