

THE HOOT OWL



September / October 2013
Issue 5, Volume 51

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 10
Ed Pandolfino
"Birds of the Sierra Nevada"

Please come to our first program of the 2013–14 season and let Ed Pandolfino take us on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. Along the way we'll see and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home. We'll learn about which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing. We'll address some mysteries surrounding some of those species and discuss how birders can help to solve them.

Ed Pandolfino is President of Western Field Ornithologists, a Regional Editor for Northern California for the *North American Birds*, and has published more than two dozen articles on status and distribution of western birds. He co-authored with Ted Beedy, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status, and Distribution*, illustrated by Keith Hansen and published by U.C. Press in May 2013.

TUESDAY, October 8
Philip Garone
"Wetlands and Waterbirds in the Central Valley: Two Centuries of Loss and Recovery"

Please note that tonight's meeting begins at 7:00 pm (not 7:30 pm) because this is a joint meeting with the Sierra Club.

California's Great Central Valley once contained approximately four million acres of permanent and seasonal wetlands, which supported enormous numbers of waterfowl and other waterbirds.

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FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, September 7—Introductory Birding Field Trip

Join leaders Pat & Dave Croft 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 14—Cosumnes River Preserve

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SUNDAY, September 15—Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery

Join leader Liz West for our monthly census of this lovely little riparian area below Comanche Dam. Meet in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, September 21—Woodbridge Wilderness Area

Join leader Liz West for the monthly census of this delightful little park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet Kurt at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in the town of Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, September 28—Jacob Meyers Park, Riverbank

Join leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic for a visit to this small riparian park on the banks of the Stanislaus River in Riverbank. Meet at Toot Sweets on March Ln. in Stockton at 7:00 a.m. to carpool, or meet the group at the park at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, October 5—Introductory Birding Field Trip

See entry for Saturday, September 7. Join leader Dave Wagner at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, October 6—Stockton Rural Cemetery

This beautiful and historic cemetery is a good place to look for fall migrants, irruptives, and winter residents alike. Join leader Jim Rowoth at the entrance at the N end of Cemetery Lane at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, October 12—Cosumnes River Preserve

See entry for Saturday, Saturday, September 14.

SATURDAY, October 19—Woodbridge Wilderness Area

See entry for Saturday, September 21. Join leader Liz West at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, October 20—Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery

See entry for Sunday, September 15. Meet leader Liz West in the fish hatchery parking lot. at 8:00 a.m.

Central Valley Birding Symposium

On November 21–24, 2013, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel, in Stockton, CA.

Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board & staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! Take advantage of the delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

This year the Thursday night keynote is double-Ed, with speakers Ed and Ed (Harper and Pandolfino) discussing trends in bird populations in the Central Valley.

Friday night's keynote program is by Kimball Garrett on Avian Invaders in California. Few areas of North America are as prone to the release and establishment of non-native bird species as California. Whether introduced purposefully or by accident, these avian immigrants include some of our most familiar bird species (think House Sparrow, European Starling and Rock Pigeon), a whole suite of additional species whose status is ever-changing, and a seemingly never-ending parade of escapees that send us running for our foreign field guides when we encounter them.

Don't miss the Saturday night keynote program "Birds of the Sierra Nevada" with Ted Beedy, Ed Pandolfino, and Keith Hansen! Ted, Ed, and Keith will take you on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. See and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home and learn which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing.

Also on Saturday, Susan Schneider will present a fascinating program "No Birdbrains Here: The Latest on Learning Instinct and Intelligence in Birds", exploring bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Dawn Garcia will share data about the secretive Northern Saw-Whet Owls in her program, "Migration Patterns of Northern Saw-Whet Owls near Forest Ranch, CA". Join Andy Engilis for an up close look at Central Valley birds at his specimen workshop.

Hands on events include Bob Steele's workshop for photographers, bird sketching with artist Keith Hansen, a carving seminar for beginners with Jim Burcio, and Beginning Birding with Jim Gain. Don't miss "Seeing Rare Birds in California: Why our state list is the largest in the US at 652 species and you can help find more" by Joe Morlan and a Flycatcher ID Workshop with Jon Dunn.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips or register, check out our symposium website at: www.2013cvbs.org/

SANDHILL CRANE TOURS

State officials have begun accepting reservations for Sandhill Crane tours this fall and winter at the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve. The Department of Fish & Wildlife hosts docent-guided tours the first three weekends of each month from October through February. Among other highlights, the tours offer the opportunity to watch the cranes fly into their roosting areas at dusk. For more details, or to register, visit dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour or call (209) 234-3435

PROGRAMS

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After statehood in 1850, Californians began to drain or “reclaim” these wetlands throughout the entire valley, primarily for conversion of the land to agriculture. During the second half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, we have been protecting and restoring—rather than destroying—valley wetlands. This talk will focus on the Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, which are among the most altered landscapes in the Central Valley. We will address the often surprising reasons why that positive change of fortune for our wetlands has come about, as well as some of the challenges facing Central Valley wetlands and wildlife today.

Philip Garone is an Associate Professor of History at California State University Stanislaus (in Turlock). He holds a Ph.D. in History and an M.S. in Ecology from the University at California at Davis, and his research specialty is U.S. and California environmental history. He has recently published the first comprehensive environmental history of the Central Valley, *The Fall and Rise of the Wetlands of California's Great Central Valley* (University of California Press, 2011). In addition to university teaching, he has previously taught environmental history and environmental education at the high school level as well as for the National Park Service as a Ranger Naturalist in Sequoia National Park.

All meetings are held at the Central United Methodist Church located at 3700 Pacific Avenue in Stockton across from UOP.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

June 18, 2013 - August 15, 2013

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Susan Schneider found a juvenile **Grasshopper Sparrow**, June 23rd, just north of Flood and Waverly Roads intersection in the same location where she had a singing male several years ago.

On July 4, in the forefront of a fire at Eight Mile Rd. and Highway 99, David Yee saw a group of around **50 Swainson's Hawks** hunting displaced prey and for a short time eight **Purple Martins** going after insects.

At the Lodi Sewage ponds, David Yee saw a **Snowy Plover** adult present from the 15th to the 18th of July and an adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on July 12th.

David Yee found a **Solitary Sandpiper** at the small dairy ponds at South Airport Way at Trahern July 20th.

On July 24th, David saw an immature male **Costa's Hummingbird** at the winery. On July 26th, David found a juvenile **Allen's Hummingbird** performing its diagnostic dive display at Heritage Oaks winery. On June 29th, David Yee found a probable **Allen's Hummingbird** at Heritage Oaks winery.

In a flooding alfalfa field near Lammer's Rd. on Tracy Blvd., August 8th, David Yee picked out an adult **Glossy Ibis** amongst four hundred plus White-faced Ibis. After comparing photographs, the ibis could be the same one seen earlier in Yolo County.

Saturday August 10th after searching numerous alfalfa fields for the Glossy Ibis, Pat Bacchetti, Frances Oliver and Liz West saw 4 **Willetts** at the Tracy Sewage ponds. Pat had seen a couple of Willetts earlier at the ponds.

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