

THE HOOT OWL



September / October 2014
Issue 5, Volume 52

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 9

Samantha Arthur

"Tricolored Blackbirds of the Central Valley"

The Tricolored Blackbird is a colonial breeder that is nearly endemic to California. Historically, Tricolored Blackbirds bred on wetlands in the Central Valley with dense cattails and bulrushes. As a result of the loss of 95% of the wetlands in the Central Valley, Tricolors increasingly nest in agricultural fields during the spring. When nesting schedules and farmers' harvest schedules conflict high proportions of the Tricolor population are put at risk. Approximately 145,000 individuals were counted in the 2014 statewide survey, down from an estimated 2-3 million in the 1930s. Tricolored Blackbirds are a California and Federal *Bird Species of Special Concern* due to sharp, ongoing population declines. In this presentation Conservation Project Manager, Samantha Arthur, will discuss Audubon California's multi-pronged approach to save the Tricolored Blackbird. This approach includes creating new wetland habitat and working with dairy farmers to delay harvest until after chicks have fledged from nests.

Samantha Arthur is a Conservation Project Manager for Audubon California, focusing on improving wetlands management for the benefit of bird species in the Central Valley. Samantha has a Masters of Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Prior to Audubon, Samantha worked with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to support private lands stewardship across the state. She was also previously a Land Protection Specialist for the Big Sur Land Trust where she worked with landowners in Monterey County on conservation easements and land management.

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FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, Sept. 13— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 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 14— *Kirkwood Lake*

Join leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic for this late summer/early fall trip to the mountains. Kirkwood Lake has been a good location for Pine Grosbeak and Williamson's Sapsucker in the past. This may also be our last chance for migrating warblers. Meet at the Park N Ride at Highway 99 and Highway 12 (Victor Rd.) at 7:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY, September 20— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Mark Elness for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, September 21— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SUNDAY, Sept. 28— *Ripon Oak Grove / Ripon Sewage Ponds*

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a visit to this 55 acre park and adjacent sewage ponds on the banks of the Stanislaus River in Ripon. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Toot Sweets, (northwest corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Drive in Stockton) to carpool.

SATURDAY, October 4— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Susan Schneider at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals.

SUNDAY, October 5— *Hawk Hill, Marin County*

Hawk Hill is the west coast version of Hawk Mountain. The western raptors pile up at the hill before they make their flight across the Golden Gate. This time of year is when small numbers of Broad-winged Hawks are in. Meet leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic in the McDonald's parking lot at I-5 and Highway 12 at 7:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and wear layers.

SATURDAY, October 11— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

See entry for Saturday, September 13. Meet leader Jim Rowoth at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Double check with Jim for start time.

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PROGRAMS

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TUESDAY, October 14

Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham, Ph.D

"Giant Sequoias, A Natural and Historic Legacy"

It's that time of year for our Joint Audubon-Sierra Club Meeting. We will hear about the Giant Sequoias of the Sierra Nevada, the largest living things on earth. Their natural history is fascinating and we will look at the unique qualities that allow them to successfully reproduce and live to grow so large. Join us for a look at these enduring giants, including the most recent research.

This interesting and educational program will be presented by Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham. Nancy is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Northern Arizona University as well as a Visiting Lecturer for the University of Virginia Semester At Sea Program, where she has taught biology around the world. Nancy has been a National Park Service Ranger since 1979.

Her books, **Park Ranger: True Stories From A Ranger's Career In America's National Parks** and **Park Ranger Sequel**, have received enthusiastic and excellent reviews from both park personnel and general readers. Her children's book, **Out of Thin Air: A Story of Big Trees**, is available as an e-book at Amazon.com. Her most recent book, **The Enduring Giants**, a coauthored book of giant sequoia biology and history, will be available for sale for \$20.00. All profits for this latest book go to Calaveras Big Trees Association which provide educational programs for the State Park.

To prepare for and complement October's Giant Sequoia program you may want to order the second edition of "The Giant Sequoia of Sequoia and Kings Canyon" by our very own Steve Stocking. You can find this book at <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/store/pc/viewPrd.asp?idproduct=234&idcategory=28> All proceeds benefit the Sequoia Natural History Association.

18TH Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 20-23, 2014 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! Meet new ones! Take advantage of the scrumptious Hors D'oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

Thursday Night's Keynote speaker is Ed Harper presenting a program on **"Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley"**. The CVBS gets off to a supercharged start with this lively and informative presentation. Ed is a widely known, popular and highly sought after speaker.

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Nat Seavey on **"From Flood to Drought: A Bird's-Eye View of Water Management in the Central Valley."** Nat Seavey, is the Research Director of the Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO). His research is focused on the ecology and conservation of riparian ecosystems, bird migration, the ecological effects of climate change, and applying science to conservation decision making and public policy.

Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Joel Greenberg on **"The Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon."** For the past four years he has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon which aims to mark the anniversary of the species' extinction. He is co-producing with director David Mrazek the documentary, **From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction**. It will be available in spring of 2014.

Workshops include: **"Subspecies for Birders"** by Joe Morlan, **"What Birders should know about Taxonomy in Flux"** by Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele, plus, informative talks by Monica Iglesia, Sara Kross, and Bob Meese. Andy Engilis and his UCD Museum crew will present the very popular Specimen Workshop.

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 website at: <http://www.2013cvbs.org/> Registration at: <http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2014>

FIELD TRIPS

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SUNDAY, October 12— *Hope Valley Birds and Fall Color*

Join leader Joanne Katanic for this fall visit to the mountains near Carson Pass. Bring your camera and capture the Sierra aspens as they change their colors from green to gold, plus Sierra birds. Meet Joanne at the Park N Ride at Highway 99 and Highway 12 (Victor Rd.) 7:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY, October 18— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

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

SUNDAY, October 19— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SUNDAY, October 26— *Del Puerto Canyon*

This is a joint field trip with Stanislaus Audubon. One of the best birding destinations in Stanislaus County, Del Puerto Canyon has a variety of habitats, from grasslands to conifers. You should bring water, lunch, insect repellent, and comfortable walking shoes as we may do a little hiking. Carpooling is encouraged. Meet at the Stanislaus County Library parking lot at 1500 I St. in Modesto (parking is behind the library) at 7:15 a.m., OR at Toot Sweets Bakery Café at 4755 Quail Lakes Dr. in Stockton at 7:00 a.m., OR at Starbucks at 15040 Rogers Rd. in Patterson at 8:00 a.m. We will return to Patterson mid-afternoon. Trip leader is Ralph Baker (209) 681-3313, sharks_hockey_maniac@yahoo.com Advance notice is not required but would be appreciated.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

June 14, 2014 - August 4, 2014

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On June 21st David Yee found an immature male **Allen's Hummingbird** at Heritage Oaks Winery.

On June 25th Terry Ronneberg had two **Short-billed Dowitchers** at the Tracy Sewage ponds.

On July 4th, Mark and Lorna Elness saw a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at the Ripon Sewage Ponds, which was present through July 6th.

Mark Elness saw three **Marbled Godwits** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds July 3rd.

Terri Ronneberg found a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds July 10th.

On July 16th Pat Bacchetti saw a female **Blue-winged Teal** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds. It was still present on the 19th.

At Oak Grove Park, July 19th, on the Stanislaus River near Ripon, David Yee found an adult female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**; he also heard an immature male grosbeak that could be Rose-breasted.

On July 25th, David saw an adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Lodi Sewage Ponds.

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

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