



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 22 #1

Calendar



Jan-Feb '84

- Sat. Jan 21 Field Trip: Palo Alto Baylands. This area is probably the best known and most frequently birded area in the south bay. Rails are common and rarities such as Least Bittern and Swamp Sparrow are regular. Hopefully the Snow of Foster City will still be present. Meet leader David Yee at Burn's Tower, UOP at 7:30, 951-1526/ 466-3337.
- Sat. Jan 28 Field Trip: In Search of Raptors. Dick Filson will take us to his favorite areas in the foothills in search of the many raptors that winter in our area. Bald eagles, Rough-legged Hawks and Ferruginous Hawks are practically guaranteed with Merlin a possibility. Several reservoirs will be visited so waterbirds should be seen in good numbers. Meet Dick at Burns Tower, UOP at 8:00. 466-8414.
- Sat. Feb. 4 and Sat Feb 25. Morning plantings of native plants at Oak Grove regional park. Planting at 8:00am, come help for one hour or more..light weeding also a possibility. For more information call Karl Kothe at 464-1004 or Steve Stocking at 463-2459.
- Sat. Feb 11 Field Trip: Stockton Sewage Ponds. George and Locky Welch are regular visitors to these ponds and would like to share the many birds that congregate there with you. Over 50 species may be found during the several hours it takes to meander through the area. Unusual visitors are regular here, last month George found an Oldsquaw which stayed for several weeks. Meet the Welch's at 9:00 at the entrance to the ponds off Hwy 4 just west of I-5.
- Tue. Feb 14 MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Stephanie Kaza will present a slide presentation on the Farallon Islands which are a bird refuge and research area located west of San Francisco. Stephanie is from the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory in Marin County. The meeting will be at the Fireside Room of Central United Methodist Church at 7:30 pm. 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Refreshments.
- Fri-Sun Feb 17-19. 5th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference.
- Sat April 14-Tue April 17. Western Regional Audubon Conference.
- FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1984.



Senate Bill 512 has passed both houses of the state Legislature and awaits approval by Governor Deukmejian. Habitat loss is generally the greatest threat facing wildlife. If approved

BIRD SIGHTINGS: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

All sightings are by David Yee unless otherwise noted.

An Arctic Loon & 25 Common Loons at Cammanche Res, (11-1). A Little gull and a Franklin's Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds (11-8). 7 Varied Thrush & 1 Blk-th Gray Warbler, Stockton Rural Cemetary (11-16). A Brown Creeper Durham Ferry Park (11-18), A "Yellow-shafted" Flicker Oak Grove Park (11-19), A Blk-h Gull, SSP (11-23), hundreds of Swans Bouldin Island (11-25) by Stocking's and many others who stopped on Highway 12. A Pileated Woodpecker in November near West Point by Dewey George. A Merlin at Lodi Sewage Ponds (11-30). A "Bewick's" Swan, Highway 12 (12-1). A Prairie Falcon SSP (12-3), A Red Phalarope SSP (12-6). A Thayer's Gull & 8 Mew Gull SSP (12-6), A Rock Wren, a White-th Sparrow & a "Grey-headed" Junco all at Linden on 12-13. A Red-breasted Nuthatch & a "Slate-colored" Junco, Swenson's Park on 12-14. A Lesser Golden Plover at Lodi Ponds 12-14. An Oldsquaw at SSP by George Welch on 12-14. 55 Horned Grebe at Cammanche Res, (12-20). 13 Lesser Yellowlegs and 2 Sanderling at SSP on 12-21. Hermit Thrush in Stockton Garden by Stocking (12-22), Nuttals Woodpecker in Garden by Stocking (12-25). A Bittern at I-5 ponds and a Merlin at Oak Grove Park on 12-29 by S. Stocking. During both December large flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings were feeding on privit, firethorn and other berries in many areas of Stockton. 13 Cattle Egret observed near Colleeville on 1-5 by N. Greenwood. A Screech Owl in a large Deodar Cedar, calling two nights 1-8 & 1-9 by S. Stocking. A Varied Thrush in Stockton Yard, 1-12, Stocking.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Stockton Christmas Bird Count for 1983 was our best ever. Not only did we have our highest total number of observers (42), we surpassed our previous record for total species seen by 12. This year we recorded 124 species versus our previous high of 112 in 1982. The total birds counted were 50,657 about 250,000 less than last year. 220,000 of those were European Starlings not seen in 1983. I'm not complaining.

Some of the more notable sightings include; 2 Common Loons observed by different teams in different areas (D. Martin & M. Sallady); 3 Horned Grebes (D.Yee & D.Martin); 42 Cattle Egrets in one flock; 12 Wood Ducks; 1 adult Bald Eagle flying west sighted by D. Yee; 1 Swainson's Hawk (DY); 1 Lesser Golden Plover (DY at Lodi S.P.); 54 Black-necked Stilts; 90 Long-billed Curlews; 1 Marbled Godwit Ed Wager; 1 Mountain Chickadee (DY); 43 Golden-crowned Kinglets; 3 Black-throated Gray Warblers (Kurt Mize); and 2 male Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Hwy 12 and I-5 (Dick Filson).

In addition to the unusually mild weather on count day, we were aided by an enthusiastic and persistant group of birders. My thanks go to the participants and especially to Kathy & John Schick who graciously hosted our after-the-count get together.

Dick Filson, compiler

WALLACE-BELLOTA COUNT

Our second count was a tremendous success this year. All time highs were set in species (126) and individuals (26,076) seen. Forty-four species had their highest totals ever, and an amazing six new species were added to the count: snow geese, white-throated swifts, tri-colored blackbirds, sora, short-eared owl and cattle egret. Of course there were good reasons for all this record setting. Thirty-two people participated this year, the most ever. The count circle was divided into 10 areas which enabled us to log over 45 party hours on foot- more

than double our previous high total. It makes sense that the more time spent actively pursuing the birds the more of them that will be seen. Also, we had beautiful weather. I would like to express my thanks to all who participated in the count this year and to the Lamms who again opened their home for the final countdown as well as for food and refreshments.

David Yee..compiler

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Now we begin a new year of maintaining and improving habitats in this area for all the birds we love to watch. I hope all of you had wonderful holidays as I did and that 1984 brings all of us happiness and success in our endeavors.

Thank you to all who participated in our two Christmas Bird Counts last month. I hope all participants enjoyed counting as much as I did. We saw nearly all the species we should have and made a nice record for 1983. Very special thanks go to Dick Filson and David Yee who planned, organized, and compiled the counts and to the Lamms who so kindly hosted the tabulating (and dinner and hot beverages for cold, hungry birdwatchers) after the Bellota Count.

We look forward to many more exciting field trips and meetings in the months to come.

- Kathy Schick

We plan a planting, weeding, and maintaining day at the Oak Grove Park Nature Trail and Interpretive Center on February 4. We have a few more native plants to get in the ground. February 25 will be the rain date and the date to finish what is undone on the 4th. For more information call Karl Kothe at 464-1004.



SAVE YOUR RECYCLABLES

The Oak Grove Docents are trying a pilot recycling project for all of us who no longer can find a place to recycle all of our recyclables (aluminum, newspaper, and glass). So don't throw these away; save them and call a docent to recycle them, or take them yourself to the recycling meeting 7:30 PM in the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park on February 7th. If you cannot get to the meeting and would like a docent to take your recyclables, call Kathy Schick (464-7083), Lois Davis (477-8353) or Linda Zipf (478-9133) before February 7th.

Senate Bill 512 (cont.)

by the governor, this bond issue would appear on the June 1984 ballot. Urge his support: Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca 95814.

JOIN A RESEARCH EXPEDITION

University of California is currently recruiting members for a field team slated to help preserve the pristine wilderness of Costa Rica's Guanacaste Province. No previous experience is necessary. Stockton Audubon member Lorraine Hebert has participated in 2 of these trips and thinks they are great! Call (415) 642-6586 for more information.

INCOME TAX CHECK OFF FOR STATE WILDLIFE

Governor Deukmejian signed it! For the first time you will be able to check off \$1.00 or more for Endangered & Rare Fish, Wildlife & Plants. Make up for some budget cuts, check it off on your return.