



THE HOOT OWL

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STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 25 #1

Calendar



Jan-Feb '87

- Saturday Jan 31. Field Trip: White Slough. This area has become one of the best in the county to observe rails. Both Virginia and Sora are common in winter and Black Rails have been seen. Many other water birds abound here and the leader, George Welch knows them well. Meet George at the parking lot to the wildlife area at 8am. Call him at 477-9618 if you have questions.
- Tuesday Feb 3. Oak Grove Docent Meeting. Dick Filson will show his slides and specimens of Birds of the Oak Grove. 7:30 at the Oak Grove.
- Sunday Feb. 8. Field Trip: Mapes Ranch. With Stanislaus Audubon giving both financial and grassroots support, this major concentration of riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River is in the planning stages of becoming a National Wildlife Refuge. Wildlife diversity is high with one of the big attractions being almost the entire world population of Aleutian Canada Geese. They winter here along with many other species of waterfowl, shorebirds & raptors. Stanislaus Audubon president Eric Caine will be our leader and is about as enthusiastic a birder as they come. Meet him in Modesto in front of the Vintage Fair Cinema at their big mall off Hwy 99. Take the Beckwith exit. Gather at 7:30am. 527-8866.
- Tuesday Feb. 10. STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. Modesto J.C. Biology-Botany Instructor Joe Medeiros will present a slide program on EAST AFRICAN BIRDS & WILDLIFE. Joe is an excellent speaker and photographer who has presented programs to our group in the past. Meet at United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton. 7:30pm.
- Saturday Feb 21. MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: field trip. This is one of the gems of the San Joaquin Valley system. Concentrations of waterfowl, shorebirds & raptors are often very high with rarities a regularity. Past trips have turned up such coveted bird species at Ross' Goose, Spotted Owl, Ruff and Mt. Plover. And, of course, there's always thousands of Cranes. Meet Sally Walters at Burns Tower, UOP at 7:30 to carpool. Plan to spend most of the day out on this very rewarding trip. 951-8408.
- Sunday Feb 22. From 12:00 to 6:00 at Stockton Civic Auditorium, there will be food booths with a variety of ethnic cuisines, entertainment, and literature. Admission is free to INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY. We will have a booth. Call Kathy 464-7083 to help.
- Saturday Mar 7. HOGAN AND PARDEE RESERVOIRS: Field Trip. The foothill areas to our east provide scenic beauty, wildflowers and numerous bird species. Steve Stocking knows how to get the best out of the area, knowing just where to stop to observe Bald Eagles, Hooded Mergansers, Mountain Bluebirds and, or course the early spring

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wildflowers. There will be short walks, bring lunch. Meet Steve at Burns Tower, UOP at 8:00. Call 463-2459 for information.

Tuesday March 10 Stockton Audubon Meeting: "Birds of America!"

BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE

This outstanding conference will be in Klamath Falls Oregon on Feb. 13-15. Topics of speakers include; "The Forest Service, The Bald Eagle, and Old Growth: Trustee for the Nations Wonders", Goshawk Research in Northern California, "Basic Ecology of Bald Eagles of the Lower Columbia" and many others. This, the Eighth Annual Bald Eagle Conference, is a joint effort of the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife & the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For registration information contact your editor at 463-2459.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

The fourth annual California Environmental Legislative Symposium will be held January 31 & February 1 at Cal State Sacramento. Many issues such as the Rancho Seco nuclear plant and the possible through-Delta water transfer facility (Peripheral Canal) will be discussed and debated. For further information call 916 444-8726.

COLOR MARKED BROWN PELICANS

You are being asked to cooperate in studies of the California brown pelican by reporting your sightings of banded and tagged birds to the Pelican Research Project, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, University of California, Davis, Ca. 95616. They have been tagged to study their movements, migrations, and interactions with man. Please report the color and number of bands and on which leg they are located. Also note the date and location of sighting, situation & comments plus your name and address.

SAVE WETLANDS AUTOSHADES

The Citizens Committee to Complete the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is selling colorful sunshades for your auto window. They have no paid staff so all profits from the sales go to saving wetlands around the Bay. The price is \$6.00 including tax and postage from Save Wetlands Autosshades, 1056 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, Ca 94301

NO NEED TO TAKE DOWN FEEDERS

Ed Harper points out in the Observer of the Sacramento Audubon Society that hummers will migrate even if your feeder remains up. Indeed the migration strategy employed by birds causes them to migrate long before food sources are depleted. Also, remember that our Anna's hummingbird is a permanent resident in the central valley area.

FIELD BOTANY

Botany 12

INSTRUCTOR: S. STOCKING



Spring Semester
Delta College

3 Units 2 Field Trips



CHECKLIST

- News of environmental issues
- Background information
- Tips on how to become a more effective activist
- Insider's information
- Critical analyses and thoughtful essays
- Reviews and references

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BIRDS

Except as noted, sightings are by David Yee.

SSP= Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL= Lodi Lake,
LSP= Lodi Sewage Ponds.

10-11, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper: Woodbridge Road, and one each of Horned Grebe, Lesser Golden-Plover & Solitary Sandpiper at LSP. 10-13 a Merlin at LSP. 10-14 a Little Gull at SSP. 10-22 a White-throated Sparrow and two Golden-cr Kinglets at LL. 10-23 two Evening Grosbeaks at Yee home. 10-27 a Clark's Grebe at LL, 10-28 a Franklin's Gull at SSP. 11-1 found thirteen Common Loon at Camanche. 11-7, 2 Little Gulls & 2 Franklin Gulls at SSP. 11-11 a Solitary Vireo and a Townsend's Warbler at LL. 11-16 a White-winged Scoter at LSP by Terry Ronneberg. 11-19 a Black-throated Sparrow at SSP and 11-26 a Greater Scaup at SSP. 11-28 a Hooded Merganser at the Tracy Sewer Ponds by Terry Ronneberg. 12-1 a Beaver on the Calaveras River near U.O.P. by Linda Stocking, and a Goshawk observed at the same site by the same observer on 11-30. She also saw a Kingfisher there on 12-4. 12-11 a Barn Swallow at SSP, 12-17 a Black & White Warbler at LL. On 12-25 Karl Kothe observed a Fox Sparrow among other back yard birds at his home. 12-26 a N. Saw-whet Owl was observed by many near Colledgeville. Hundreds of Robins and Cedar Waxwings were clearing the Delta College campus of berries between 12-25 and 1-14. Also observed by S. Stocking were 12 Ca. Quail and 2 R.S. Towhee along the Calaveras River near Pacific Ave on 12-26. T.R Chambers observed 2 Bald Eagles near Pacheco Pass on 12-27. R.C. Kinglets were common in Stockton bushes during the last week of December. On 12-30 the fog lifted long enough for 15 field trip participants to observe many types of ducks as well as Canada, White-fronted and hundreds of beautiful Snow Geese at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. From December through the middle of January, T.R. Chambers of Valley Springs has located 6 Bald Eagles in the Pardee Dam area. On 1-1 K.Kothe and S. Stocking observed 2 Red-sh. Hawks at Oak Grove Park and S. Stocking has observed a Hermit Thrush in his Stockton yard from 1-1 through 1-18.

THE STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On December 20, 45 dedicated but fun-loving birders and lovers of wildlife, did themselves proud by coming up with the highest species diversity total ever in the 17 year history of this count. 132 nipped last year's previous high of 131 by one and no less than 5 new species were added to the overall species list for the count circle: Ferruginous Hawk, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Harris' Sparrow, Hooded Oriole and Tricolored Blackbird. This brings the total species list up to an impressive 167. Some early morning fog lifted by 9:30 with clear skies seen by all from 11:00 on. It was a beauty of a day with quite an all-star cast participating. Forty five participants is about the highest number of counters on the count and is no doubt the greatest contributing factor to the increased quality of the count. The 7 "seven hired-hands" from Sacramento were most appreciated and were responsible for the Gnatcatcher as well as a Golden Eagle and Ross' Goose. The three hotshots from Fresno spiced up the count with the Ferruginous Hawk, the Oriole as well as the Lesser Golden-Plover at the Lodi Sewage Ponds. Some of the outstanding finds by local birders included White-throated Sparrow, Merlin, Solitary Vireo and Townsend's Warbler.

My thanks to all who participated for making this the most successful count and to my wonderful wife Sue who comforted our weary bones with a warm house and filled our tummys with delicious grub after the count. See you next year. David Yee.

"Everything that exists is in a manner the seed of that which will be."

Marcus Aurelius

"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journeywork of the stars."
Walt Whitman