



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 27 #1

Calendar



Jan-Feb 1989

Sunday Jan. 29 FIELD TRIP; MAPES RANCH. Our annual visit to Stanislaus Audubon's pride and joy. This area along the San Joaquin River will soon become a National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife is superb. The colorful Eric Caine will again lead us to his favorite spots as we look for many species of raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl, including the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose. Meet him in Modesto in front of the Vintage Fair Cinema at their big mall off Hwy 99. Take Beckwith exit. 7:00am. Information: 527-8866

Saturday Feb. 4 COSUMNES BIRD CENSUS. 7:30am at Schick's 464-7083.

Saturday Feb. 4 FIELD TRIP; MONTEREY BAY. A winter visit to this rich birdland can be very rewarding. We will observe both the landbirds and seabirds which congregate from Monterey to Santa Cruz. If we are lucky we may see migrating Gray Whales. Camping facilities will be available. Call David Yee if you are interested. 951-1526 or 466-3337.

Saturday Feb 11. Dedication of Interpretive Center: Cosumnes Preserve (pg3)

Tuesday Feb 14. STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. Don and Cathy Crump will present a program on their work with Raptors (hawks, owls, eagles) at their 5 MILE RAPTOR REHAB CENTER. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church at the corner of Pacific and Fulton in Stockton. Ample free parking. 477-9618.

Wednesday Feb. 22 Pete Ottesen of the Stockton Record will speak on the "Future of Wildlife in the Central Valley" at the local Sierra Club Group Meeting. 7:30pm Great American Savings. 435 W. Benjamin Holt.

Saturday Feb. 25. FIELD TRIP; SALT SPRINGS VALLEY RESERVOIR. The foothills to our east provide scenic beauty and many bird species. The biggest reward will be observing the many Bald Eagles that congregate at the reservoir this time of year. This may be a full day so pack a lunch and head for adventure. Leader: John Schick 464-7083. Meet at his home at 940 N. Argonaut at 7:30.

Sunday Feb. 26 International Friendship Day Civic Auditorium (see page 3)

Saturday Mar. 4 FIELD TRIP; MOODY RANCH. This will be our first visit to this lovely piece of property along the Calaveras River east of McGurk Ranch. We can expect Prairie Falcon, Rough-legged & Ferruginous Hawks, Bluebirds etc. We will kick around the country-side until about noon, so bring a lunch if you desire. Meet leader Victor Wykoff at Burns Tower UOP at 7:30 477-0376.

Wednesday Mar. 4 Tom Griggs of Nature Conservancy will present his program on their preserves at the Sierra Club Group Meeting. So if you missed it at Audubon, its 7:30 at Great American Savings on Ben Holt.





All sightings are by David Yee unless another observer is mentioned. LL is Lodi Lake, LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds. SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds. Call your editor with your observations. 4652729.

Oct 29, a Semipalmated Plover on Empire Tract. Also Oct. 29, 15 Lesser Scaups near Lighthouse Pt, Pt. Reyes. by Russ Lawson. Oct 31 "THE" Bendire's Thrasher of Acampo, 10 Chipping Sparrows also in Acampo that day! Nov. 3 a Gr Scaup and 350 "Bonie" Gulls at LL. Nov. 5 80 Wh. Pelicans and 1 Mt. Bluebird at Camanche. Nov. 7 a Red-n. Phalarope at SSP. Nov. 10 a Townsend's Warbler at Louis Park. Nov. 14 a Franklin's Gull at SSP. Nov. 15 2 adult and 2 juv. Red Masked Conures (escapes) in Stockton by Jim Rowoth. Nov. 16 a Little Gull at LSP. Nov. 19 a Spotted Redshank!, 15 Lesser Yellowlegs and 3 Marbled Godwits observed at Staten Is. by Mike Lippsmeyer. Nov. 20 a Swainson's Hawk and 5 Short-eared Owls at Staten Island by Robin Leong. Nov. 23 2 Merlin at LSP and 1 Thayer's Gull at SSP. Nov 3, a Ruff at Staten Is. Nov. 26 a Cooper's Hawk at Napa Junction and a large number of the Crows of central California as well as 3 Rough legged hawks on Bouldin Is by Steve Stocking. Nov. 27 an Osprey at Jenny Lind, 2 Bald Eagles at Pardee, 3 Bald Eagles and a Rough-legged Hawk at Salt Springs were observed by Chambers who also observed 4-6 eagles near Altamont toward the end of Dec. Dec. 3 J. Schick and assistants observed 42 species and 740 birds on the monthly Cosumnes bird count. Dec. 10 a Wh-th Sparrow at LL, 10 Swainson's Hawk at Staten Is. and 20 Rough-legged Hawks at Staten Is. Dec. 28 Neil Kerr of Ripon observed a Merlin chasing a flock of Cedar Waxwings. He also saw an Orange-cr. Warbler. Jan. 2 there were great flocks of B. Blackbirds and A. Robins and a few Acorn Woodpeckers, Y.-rumped Warblers, Wh. & Golden-Crowned Sparrows on the Delta College Campus, (no Waxwings). S. Stocking Jan 12. 60 Cedar Waxwings in Stockton. S. Stocking. Dec 26 S. Stocking also observed a Red-sh Hawk flying from Burns Tower, U.O.P. in Stockton. Dec. 15 N. Greenwood noted "Gambells" Wh. Crowns with "Nuttals" at her Stockton feeder.

OTHER BIRDING NEWS:

Dateline London: "A North American robin believed to have flown across the Atlantic Ocean was drawing hundreds of bird-watchers to the east coast of Scotland yesterday. (12-27-88)

Dateline Sacramento: "Delighted wildlife biologists say a rare peregrine falcon has been seen perched on a railing atop the 17 floor building that houses the headquarters of the state Department of Fish and Game. The bird has been feasting on pigeons and other small birds in the downtown area." DDT is blamed for the past decline in peregrines. Captive breeding has brought their numbers back up, this bird was born in captivity. (1-8-89)

STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

One runs out of superlatives when the weather keeps getting better and we break bird sighting records. That is the only way to describe our Dec. 17 bird count as 141 species of birds were observed on an utterly beautiful winter day. This marks the 4th year in a row that we have bettered our previous year's high of total species seen. Breaking the 140 barrier was especially gratifying as very few Central Valley counts have ever done it and only Sacramento does it with regularity. We should be very proud of ourselves. Almost 50 people participated which is an all time high, including 10 people from out of town. We are most appreciative of our guests. Highlights included the famous Little Gull see for the first time on the count, an Eurasian Wigeon, a Golden Eagle, a Thayer's Gull, 2 Rock Wrens, 20 White Pelicans, and THE Bendires Thrasher. My thanks to all of you participants for making this our most successful bird count and to my better half for the warm home and eats during the compilation. (David Yee)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY - 2/26/89

The annual International Friendship Day will be held on Sunday February 26, 1989, at the Stockton Civic Auditorium from noon to 6:00pm. This is a gathering of many of the non-profit groups in the community who have booths which offer information. There are also food booths and entertainment on the stage. This will be Audubon's third year as a participant earlier years have proven a good means to recruit new members and gain community visibility.

We need two volunteers for each shift to staff the booth, answering questions and offering literature. We can also use help setting up and taking down the booth. Can you spare 1 or 2 hours on that Sunday afternoon? Please contact John or Kathy Schick (464-7083) to volunteer.

HAVE YOU SEEN AN UNCOMMON BIRD IN OUR AREA?

David Yee will head a Stockton Audubon committee to help update the State Department of Fish and Game's sensitive species database. We need to get all the known nesting, feeding, and wintering areas of listed species on the DFG list so that the state can protect these birds from such threats as development and hazardous chemicals. If the DFG database had contained information we knew about the Swainson's Hawks nesting in Oak Grove, the Spanos EIR would have had to contain mitigations for them. Please make notes if you have any sightings of threatened species: Aleutian Canada Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, Clapper Rail, Greater Sandhill Crane, California Least Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gilded Northern Flicker, Belding's Savannah Sparrow.

And the DFG has recently added other "watch" species to their list: Western Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, herons and egrets, most hawks, many gulls, terns, thrashers, and gnatcatchers. Call David Yee (951-1526) or Kathy Schick (464-7083) for details on the state's list.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER TO OPEN AT COSUMNES

On February 11, 1989, at 10 AM an interpretive center will be dedicated at the Nature Conservancy's Cosumnes River Preserve. Because of this exciting event, the Stockton Audubon monthly bird census will be advanced to February 4th. For details call John Schick (464-7083)

WILDLIFE CLOCKS AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT

The December special offer of "second" wildlife clocks (with imperfections, most on the back) for \$19.95 (adding tax = \$21.15) will continue. Tidewater Graphics will have these clocks available for the next few months in various styles, depending on stock. Audubon gets a 15% retailers fee which came to over \$25.00 in December. For more information on this call **Kathy Schick (464-7083)**.

FREE EDUCATIONAL VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE

Stockton Audubon has several educational videotapes on environmental conservation issues including the California Condor, Black Footed Ferret, Wetlands, World of Audubon, Population, and Birding. Call Nancy Ballot (465-9461)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE WILDFLOWER CLOCK



Silkscreened in full color
Quartz movement guaranteed for one year
(AA battery not included)
1 1/4" Diameter * Hanger for wall mounting
Please send check or money order to:
TIDEWATER GRAPHICS
1645 West Euclid * Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 463-2381
Please add \$2.00 per clock for postage.
California residents add \$2.10 tax per clock.

STOCKTON AUDUBON BIRDATHON

Stockton Audubon will again be involved in a birdathon this coming spring. What is a "birdathon"? It is a fund-raising device that puts you to work doing what many of you like doing best..... watching birds. Right now we need two types of people to make this birdathon successful: those who will participate on the birdathon and obtain sponsors for themselves, and those who will help get sponsors for birdathon participants. The money raised from the birdathon will go toward chapter expenses (this newsletter, programs, Christmas Bird Counts, etc.) and toward special local conservation projects that involve the Chapter, such as Oak Grove Regional Park and the Raptor Rehab Center. Call David Yee if you are interested in participating in any way. 951-1526/466-3337.

ENDANGERED SPECIES TAX CHECKOFF

The voluntary Endangered Species Program has been preserved in California for 5 years. This means that you can still help by marking line 45 on your California State Tax Form at tax time. 250 species have been helped including Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Greater Sandhill Crane and Bald Eagle. This is a much better long term investment than is a lottery ticket.

COSUMNES RIVER BIRD CENSUS

This worthy effort, led by John Schick, will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month. Mornings only, from 7:30 to 1:00, are involved. The area should get better for the birds of the area as the joint efforts of Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy convert more of the area to wetlands. Recently there was a good article on the Preserve in the Stockton Record. Check your second Saturdays for 1989 and give John a call to commit yourself. His day number is 473-3290 and for evenings it is 464-7083.

STATE WILDLIFE LICENSES FOR NONHUNTERS!

"People who would rather look at wild animals than kill them will pay some of the state's conservation costs under a program introduced yesterday."

"Environmental groups have long complained that hunters and fishers have called the tune for the state Department of Fish and Game, because hunting and fishing license fees supported many wildlife programs. Starting April 1, however, hikers, backpackers and bird watchers will make their own contributions by paying \$2 a day or \$10 a year to visit nine wildlife areas around the state." (Areas involved near Stockton are Los Banos, Gray Lodge, Grizzly Island and Elkhorn Slough.)

"Although the wildlife areas have been free to all users, the money raised by the new fees will provide some important and very visible benefits for visitors who do not hunt or fish, state wildlife officials said."

"The money will be used to improve the wildlife habitat and to provide tours, lectures, nature trails and photographic blinds in the wilderness areas."

(From Greg Lucas, Chronicle Sacramento Bureau)

LETS BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

"Lyme disease follows a tick bite by *Ixodes dammini* or a related ixodid tick that infects the host with a recently discovered spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The disease is of European origin and is now found in portions of California, Oregon Nevada and Utah. "Most cases occur during the summer months."

Fewer than 50% of the patients recall the tick bite. If you bird in an area which could have deer, you should carefully check your body afterwards to remove ticks. This is particularly true where you have brushed by trees and shrubs. Check cuffs, belt line, neck line and wrist areas carefully.

There are many symptoms, enlarging rash, severe fatigue, headache, stiff neck, influenza like illness and musculoskeletal pains, in the first clinical stage which lasts a median of 4 weeks. One of the cases reported in this journal article was

"A 67 year-old male physician and avid bird-watcher from Wisconsin was in excellent health until November 1986, when abrupt painfull swelling of the right calf developed." We hope you get early treatment and do not progress to stage 2 or 3 so will not describe those more severe symptoms. If you wish more information from this article; Diagnosing Lyme Disease: The Contribution of Serologic Testing. Duffy, Mertz, Wobig and Katzmann. Myo Clin Proc.63:1116-1121. November 1988. (Article provided by Dr. R. Boubelik, thanks)

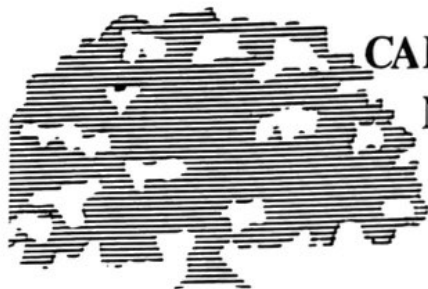
OAK GROVE WILDLIFE AND DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to everyone who gave assistance and support to preserve Oak Grove Regional Park's wildlife from surrounding development. August 1st the Stockton City Council approved the Spanos Development but amended it to include mitigation for the park's nesting Swainson's Hawks along with other park protection. September 8th the Land Utilization Alliance filed two lawsuits against the inadequate Environmental Impact Report and the city's inadequate General Plan. On November 16th, despite a record number of letters of concern, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research granted the City's request for extension of the General Plan update, mooting that lawsuit. However, in order to extend the City of Stockton hired a planner and set a schedule for the new general plan, and now the city is limited by some OPR limitations until the new general plan has faced public review, so the situation has improved somewhat. January 5th the court dismissed the EIR suit on a technicality. But in summary our activities have had an impact on the planning department and developers, who are more aware of environmental issues. Fish and Game continues in January to meet with developers on the mitigation measures for the park's hawks.

LIBRARY AUDUBON PLATES TO BE EXHIBITED

The Stockton Library's collection of 105 elephant folio plates (accompanying the 1894 Birds of America) will be displayed in a special six month exhibit at the Haggin Museum starting in August 1989. Stockton Audubon Society has agreed to help with information sheets on the birds which occur locally and to have speakers on birds during the exhibit. We may also help to promote and sell posters for the exhibit. These chromolithographic plates are impressive and priceless, a Stockton treasure, and fun for all of us to see at last.

Richardson Bay Audubon Center's bookstore, THE BOOK NEST, has just published its 1989 mail order catalog of field and site guides for birds, video and audio cassettes for birding, and environmental education books. The catalog is free. If you want it mailed by first class postage, please send a \$.25 stamp to: THE BOOK NEST, RBAC, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.



CALIFORNIA NATURAL HISTORY



Biology 10 Delta College
INSTRUCTOR: S. STOCKING
3 Units 2 Field Trips



"Entertaining and instructive... Not only does Jack Connor give us the best advice on available equipment and how to use it, but he also presents an overview of the warblers, hawks, shorebirds, gulls, and terns—those difficult groups of birds that have such a special fascination for the field-glass fraternity. Enjoy what Jack Connor has to tell you and upgrade your field skills. Good birding!"

—Roger Tory Peterson

Joint membership in the National Audubon Society and the Stockton Audubon Society includes a subscription to both Audubon magazine and The Hoot Owl. Make check payable to: National Audubon Society and send to Stockton Audubon Society c/o John Schick 940 N. Argonaut, Stockton Ca. 95204. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

_____ \$30 individual	_____ \$250 contributing	_____ \$18 student
_____ \$38 family	_____ \$500 donor	_____ \$21 senior
_____ \$50 sustaining	_____ \$1,500 life	_____ \$23 senior, family

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY
236 W. Knoles Way
Stockton, Ca. 95204

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Stockton, Ca. Permit No. 450
