



# THE HOOT OWL

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## STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 22 #4

# Calendar



July-Aug '84

No meetings these months, but REMEMBER the STOCKTON AUDUBON POTLUCK will be SEPTEMBER 11 at CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Get together your 6 (six) favorite slides on natural history and we will share.

WE DO HAVE OUTINGS THIS SUMMER.....AND THEY ARE GREAT ONES !

YOSEMITE WEEKEND: Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and July 15.

A summer's visit to Yosemite can be a most rewarding experience. We'll be focusing on the abundant birdlife in this multi-habitat wonderland but very often this will be overshadowed by the immense beauty of the area. Few areas in the world match up with Yosemite. Time will be spent among the tall trees, below gorgeous waterfalls and along cool mountain streams looking for such specialties as Blue Grouse, Black Swift, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeaks and others.

We will meet at the Big Oak Flat entrance station at 9:00am on Saturday. This is the entrance to the park along Hwy 120, approximately 2 hrs from Stockton. Those wishing to camp out can reserve a spot through tickatron. For more information call David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337.

CONDOR FIELD TRIP: Saturday and Sunday July ~~28-29~~

A repeat of last year's very successful trip to see these rarest of birds. These relics of the past are restricted to the mountains that separate the Central Valley from the L.A. basin. Though there are only about 19 left in the wild a lookout point has been established that practically guarantees them in July-August. Many other birds and forms of wildlife will be observed as well. Camping is available at several campsites on a first-come, first served basis, however they are rarely full. Call David for further information.

MONTEREY WEEKEND: Saturday-Sunday August 25-26.

The area around Monterey may offer the best birding in North America. The combination of about 7 different habitats provide a diversity not easily equaled elsewhere. The area is rich in many other forms of wildlife as well. Saturday will be spent on the coast from Moss Landing to Pt. Lobos observing the many shore and landbirds that should be migrating through. Sunday will be a Pelagic Trip out of Fisherman's Wharf. No other area along the coast offers one the chance to observe seabirds and marine mammals at such a close proximity to shore. This is because the continental shelf comes very close to shore in this area and also due to the presence of the enormous Monterey Submarine Canyon. Because the bay is relatively protected, trips are generally very pleasant. Many marine mammals and birds will be encountered. The boat leaves at 8am Sunday and returns about 3 pm. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Spaces are limited so make reservations early through David Yee. You could come either or both days and stay overnight. Call David if you are interested in learning more about camping and motel possibilities.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer plans. I am enjoying a somewhat relaxed summer. However, I had expected to be even more relaxed, thinking all the major conservation battles (with the exception of occasional letter-writing on pending bills) was behind or ahead of the summer. However, it would appear that the price of caring for nature is eternal vigilance. This month there will be a hearing by the county planning commission to determine if there should be an amendment to the General Plan to allow the creation of Carnegie New Town. Many of us had thought that this proposal had died a year ago even before the special study found that there was a significant population of San Joaquin Kit Foxes and that this seems to be the northernmost population of these endangered mammals. The study indicated that any major construction in the area would separate the northern population from the main population, swiftly destroying it. Apparently, the biologists in the study felt that in determining that building a town here would destroy the San Joaquin Kit Fox they had done enough, for they did not follow up on considerations of the Prairie Falcon or the possibly rare Willow Flycatcher. What we all thought had ended the consideration of the new town at Carnegie were the unresolved problems with engineering and financial consideration of water and sewage. It will be interesting to see if they have begun to solve these mundane sanitary problems as they ask the Planning Commission, "Of what value is a small kit fox?"

- Kathy Schick



OAK GROVE NEWS

The plants have a pretty good chance of surviving this summer for the population of meadow voles (those little "mice") appears to be down this year. However, the plantings made in the past few years MUST have water to survive the summer, until they have a chance to develop deep roots. Please help with the watering if you can:

July 14 & July 28 ...Norm Smith 474-5390/474-5354  
August 11 & 25 ...Karl Kothe 464-1004  
September 8 & 22 ...Kathy Schick 464-7083

Most of the watering is Saturday morning 8 -11 AM and goes quickly and enjoyably. You'll be finished long before lunch time but you may wish to bring a picnic lunch and take some time on the trails afterward. (There is a tiny finger of the lake which forms a marsh near the trail and we counted at least five different species of brightly colored dragonflies patrolling the water with a show which entertained us for over an hour.) Or you may wish to try out the new pedal boats which may be rented at the concession stand. Even if you can't help with the watering, try to visit the Oak Grove this summer and enjoy it.

DONATION IN MEMORY OF RUTH GOODENOUGH

The family of the late Ruth Goodenough has generously donated several items which may be of interest to bird fanciers. Members of the family asked that Stockton Audubon sell these items and keep the profit as a donation. If you are interested in purchasing bird stationery, bird posters, bird vases or a bird painting in an elaborately-carved wooden frame, please call Kathy Schick at 464-7083. We thank all the family for their generosity.



### HOSES DONATED FOR OAK GROVE

When the board asked John Blades to purchase hoses and some lopping shears to be used at Oak Grove, he promised to get us a good deal. He really did a great job for he talked Orchard Supply into donating four hoses (300 feet) and a very good sythe. Audubon then purchased lopping shears and an additional 200 feet of hoses after we found more of the old hoses leaked than we had realized. Thus for a reasonably small amount of money, Stockton Audubon has acquired enough hoses and other tools to make watering at the Oak Grove a pleasure. Our thanks to Manager Jim Lovelace and Orchard Supply Hardware for the wonderful donation and thanks to John Blades for arranging all this. HELP US WATER AT THE OAK GROVE AND SEE THE NEW HOSES!

### REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE

Audubon's biennial Western Regional Conference at Asilomar, April 14-17, was attended by several members of Stockton Audubon. I went as Chapter Delegate with Nancy and Rachel; John, Kathy and Jeff Schick were there, and George and Locke Welch were able to make some of the sessions. The theme of this year's Regional Conference was "Water and Wildlife" and there were a number of interesting presentations on National Wildlife Refuges, Audubon Sanctuaries, endangered and other species, predator control, and a variety of water-related issues.

The Chapter Delegates' session was something of a free-for-all, although I understand it was a great improvement over previous years. After some heated (by hot air) debate, the Delegates selected the 3 issues we felt should be given top priority in the Western Region over the next two years. These are: 1. Wetlands; 2. Dangerous pesticides and predator control substances; and 3. Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. We'll be hearing more on these from Regional Audubon.

We met alot of friendly, interesting people from all over; the presentations were, for the most part, informative and inspiring; the children's program was excellent; the accommodations were adequate, and the weather was sparkling and cool. We had a great time and are looking forward to the next one.

Kurt Mize, Stockton Audubon V.P.

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVATIONS OF WILLOW FLYCATCHERS

The California Department of Fish and Game is undertaking a study of the Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii) in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements, and reproductive success. Please send any reports of recent sightings (within the past decade) of breeding Willow Flycatchers to Ronald W. Schlorff, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name, address, and phone number, along with the following: location of sighting (if possible, provide legal description of nest territory-township, range, section,  $\frac{1}{4}$ section-ideally, a copy of a topographic map should be included), date of observation, behavioral notes, and any other relevant information (e.g. evidence of nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds or threats to habitat). This information will assist State and Federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for this bird species of special concern.

### COUNTY PARKS ANNUAL PASS SALES

San Joaquin County Department of Parks and Recreation is now offering Annual County Park Passes to the general public. The Annual Passes are available for a one time fee of \$25.00 and allow the purchaser unlimited day use entries at all County Parks. These may be purchased at Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices, 4520 W. Eight Mile Rd..

# BIRDS

Stockton Sewer Ponds = SSP, Lodi Sewage Ponds are LSP, Oak Grove Park = OGP, Corral Hollow R becomes CH, Brovelli Woods = BW. and DY is our own David Yee. (Both space & time are short.)  
When no name is mentioned that is also D. Yee.

4-18 2 Little Gulls & a Blue-winged Teal At SSP by DY. Also 3 Black-th Grey Warblers at Stockton Rural Cemetary. 4-19 a Short-billed Dowitcher at LSP. The following by DY at CH. Costa' Hummer, 30 Calliope Hummers, 2 Allen's Hummers, 10 Rufous Hummers, a Canyon Wren, Black-chinned Sparrow, 2 Sage Sparrows, 10 Rufous-Crowned Sparrows and 10 Lawrence's Goldfinch. On 4-26 DY saw a Hutton's Vireo at Cammanche and 2 Horned Grebe at SSP. 4-27 a Solitary Vireo and a Nashville Warbler at OGP. On 4-27 Kurt Mize and Bob Phillips saw Brandt's Cormorant, Black Scoter, Wandering Tattler, Spotted Sandpiper and Arctic Loon at Santa Cruz on the Bird Count. The next morning they observed Cattle Egret, Snow Goose, Black-Crowned Night Heron and Greater Scaup at Alameda/Oakland and Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Horned Lark, Say's Phoebe and Roadrunner & Phainopepla at Del Puerto Canyon (all on Birdathon). At Hogan Reservoir they added Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Also on 4-28 David observed a Lesser Yellowlegs at BW, a Cassin's Kingbird at CH and a Hermit Warbler at OGP. On 4-30 Jeffrey Schick observed 30 Cedar Waxwings in his Cherry Tree. He also thinks that he observed a Chickadee there but will need confirmation on this. Kurt Mize saw 8 Semi-palmated Plovers, 50 Whimbrel and a Black Tern near LSP. on 5-2. Mike and Joann Lamm observed Red Shouldered Hawks nesting in Morada 5-4. 5-1 David Observed a Blue Grosbeak at OGP. 5-3 he added a Red-necked Phalarope at the SSP. 5-8 a Brewer's Sparrow at OGP by David and a Harris' Sparrow in Tracy by Joan Rickman. Kurt saw another Black Tern on 5-9 at SSP. David was at Durham Ferry Park on 5-11 where he observed 8 Cattle Egret, 2 Western Wood Pewee and a Swainson's Thrush. From 5-14 to 5-17 Mike Salladay had a Olive Sided Flycatcher at his home in Morada. On 5-16 Neil Kerr observed Black Headed Grosbeak, B. Oriole, W. Tanager Cedar Waxwings, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warblers, Hermit Thrush and California Thrasher in and near the ripe Mulberry Trees in Del Puerto Canyon. Down the Canyon a ways he observed a Hooded Oriole. On 5-17 David observed 3 Yellow-breasted Chat at Cammanche and on 5-18 a Willow Flycatcher at Oak Grove Park as well as a Ring-necked Duck at SSP. At the Audubon Picnic at the Oak Grove we took a little walk and found W. Tanager, Lawrences Goldfinches, Blue Grosbeak (we wouldn't have seen it without David's help) Ash Throated Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Willow Flycatcher and perennial Rye Grass flowering. Nancy Greenwood found a Bittern near Highway 4 on 5-27. Kurt located over 20 Ash-throated Flycatchers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Swainson's Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, Wood Duck, Great Horned Owl and 2 coyote pups at BW on 5-28. On 6-8 a Barn Swallow was flying over Miner Avenue in downtown Stockton, SKS. 6-9 the waters saw a W. Tanager in OGP. 6-15 a Barn Swallow on the Delta Campus (SKS), and a Green Heron over the Calaveras River at West Lane, "Burrowing" Owls were reported in a 3 year old colony on Carpenter Road near the Airport by Hollis Fox. Linda Stocking reported a Barn Owl over Knowles Way in Stockton on 6-17. On the same day Lois Davis spotted our favorite Burrowing owls with young in the ice plant near Marshalls. SKS (Steve Stocking) reports a Green Heron flying down Verdi Drive on 6-18 and stalking prey on a man made pond adjacent to Venetian Drive on 6-21. Our Calaveras Big Trees field trip "netted" Western-wood Peewee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Oriole, Lark Sparrow, Olive-sided Flycatcher, W. Tanager, at the rest stop, and Western Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker nesting under an "owl scarecrow", winter wren, Y.B. Sapsucker, Evening Grosbeak, Fox Sparrow, and MacG's Warblers among others at the Park. Kurt Mize and Bob Phillips and families camped out up there and added Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pileated Woodpecker to the list for the weekend on 6-15-17. Maurice McCullen reports a Bush Tit nesting in Stockton on 6-20. On 6-23 David saw a Least Tern, 100 Wilson's Phalarope, a Whimbrel at SSP and a Hooded Oriole at his home.

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Victor Wozoff 477-0376<sup>(5)</sup> home

466-6000 work  
STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1984-5

John Schick  
1-473-3290

President: Kathy Schick, 940 N. Argonaut, Stkn. 95203 464-7083

Vice-President: Kurt Mize, 1747 Longbarn Way, Stkn. 95207 957-0676

Secretary: Ann Mullin, 5640 N. El Dorado, Stkn. 95207 957-3366

Treasurer: John Geer, 1835 N. Hunter, Stockton, 95204 463-8305

Board Members: Cindy Geer, 1835 N. Hunter, Stkn. 95204 463-8305

Steve Stocking, 236 W. Knoles, Stkn. 94204 463-2459

George Welch, 8147 Heather Drive, Stkn -09 477-9618

Bob Phillips, 8813 Cardiff Pl., Stkn. 95210 951-9757

Committee Chairmen:

Programs/Publicity: Cindy Geer (see above)

Field Trips: David Yee, 6035 Kermit Lane, Stockton 95207 951-1526

Editor: Steve Stocking (see above)

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466-3337 work

Membership: Lois Davis, 4514 Augustus Ct., Stkn. 95207 477-8353

Hospitality: Nancy Greenwood, 1761 W. Princeton, Stkn. 95204 462-2724

Christmas Counts: Dick Filson, 1857 Ramona, Stkn. 95204 466-8414

David Yee (see above)

Oak Grove: Karl Kothe, 688 N. Regent Street, Stkn. 95204 464-1004

BIRDATHON NOTES (David Yee)

The Stockings, Kurt Mize, Bob Phillips and David Yee, went out in 3 teams this year to help the Audubon cause by participating in the annual birdathon. Their efforts helped to raise \$411! This contribution represents Stockton Audubons share toward helping National Audubon serve its many causes including the projects with Mono Lake and the Condor which are priorities for us. All 3 teams went out on April 28 to see as many bird species as possible. David Yee's team came in this a total of 142 species, Kurt and Bob saw 118, and the Stockings saw 50 during a morning in the county, not bad at all! (ed note: 142 for county a record?)

PROPOSITIONS 18 (STATE PARKS BOND ACT) and PROPOSITION 19 PASS!

Of particular interest was Proposition 19, the wildlife habitat bond act. This represented the first wildlife bond act ever to appear on the ballot. Through the efforts of conservationists, sportsmen and other concerned citizens, the measure won by the largest margin on the ballot. Its passage will result in the investment of 485 million for wildlife habitat and wetland aquisition and enhancement throughout the state. Thanks to all of you who helped. (Western Regional Staff, June 7, 1984)

