



# THE HOOT OWL

## STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 27 #4

### Calendar



July-Aug 1989

Saturday July 15. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Count 6:30am. Leader John Schick. 464-7083.

Saturday July 22. SONORA PASS FIELD TRIP. See the World's largest Jeffry Pine, great numbers of summer, subalpine wildflowers and birds near Sonora Pass. Get up early to meet co-leader Steve Stocking at Bruners parking lot in Stockton at 6:30am! We will meet our other co-leader Neil Kerr at the Oakdale McDonalds at 7:30am. Neil has become familiar with this wonderful area and will show us special places. Bring a lunch and water for this long day trip. For more information including car-pooling call Steve Stocking at 4652729.

Friday August 4. Watering our Oak Seedlings at Oak Grove Park. If you can help from 8 to 10 or so, call Lois Davis at 447-8353.

Sunday August 19. LODI LAKE AND LODI & STOCKTON SEWAGE PONDS FIELD TRIP. Fall migration is well under way by now, so will visit some of our best local spots to take advantage of this event. Warblers, vireos, and flycatchers should be moving well through the Lodi Lake Wilderness area while shorebirds, gulls and early ducks will be observed at the sewer ponds. Meet leaders Joshua and Kim Horner at Lodi Lake on Laurel St. at 7:30 am. More information? 474-0175.

Sunday August 20. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Count. 6:30am. Leader John Schick 464-7083.

Tuesday August 22. Special Program: Jay Bell, Science Coordinator for Lodi Unified School District will present his slide show entitled, "A BIRD CAN FLY AND SO CAN I. .... EXCEPT THAT. at 7:30 at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, 1201 North Pershing. This will be the first in a series of many special events accompanying the Haggin Museum's special six month showing of the Stockton Public Library's excellent collection of Audubon Chromolithographs which were printed in 1890.



Sunday August 27. MONTEREY BAY BOAT TRIP. Our annual summer outing on Monterey Bay is consistently one of the year's favorites. During this time of year seabirds and marine mammals have started to move along the Calif. coastline. Here the continental shelf comes very close to shore and we are able to observe offshore wildlife within 1 hour and still be protected by the bay. Past highlights have included Black-footed Albatross, 5 species of Storm-petrel, Arctic Tern, dolphins, porpoise, Humpback Whale and Blue Whale. The boat leaves Fisherman's Wharf at 7:30 and returns about 3:30 Cost is \$34.00. The boat fills fast so send in your money to reserve your spot ASAP if interested. Make out your check and send to David Yee, 2930 Driftwood Pl., #39, Stockton Ca., 95207. A group campsite has been reserved at Veteran's Park in Monterey for Sat. night. More info call 466-3337 or 951-1526.

Saturday, Sept. 9. We need to water the young oak plantings at the Oak Grove Park. If you can help from 8 to 10 or so give Sharon Heitman a call at 944-9935.

Tuesday September 12. GENERAL MEETING: Jim Eastep, wildlife biologist, will show his excellent slide presentation of 'THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY'S THREATENED SWAINSON'S HAWKS. Following then slides, Ken Neiland, director of Micke Grove Zoo, will show the zoo's captive Swainson Hawk. Like all our meetings between September and February of 1990 the regular meeting will be held at THE HAGGIN MUSEUM, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, Ca. 7:30pm.

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## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SETS POLICIES

The first official meeting of our Stockton Audubon Society's Conservation Committee was called in June by our new chair Waldo Holt. Attendance was great, however there were plenty of tasks for all.

Terry Ronneberg agreed to help screen new developments and concerns in the Tracy...Manteca...Lathrop area. Michael Lamm will screen those in North Stockton and Lodi. Waldo will continue to screen the Stockton and county-wide projects. Individuals will be in charge of other projects; for instance David Yee will continue to help plan the wetlands mitigation area in Grup's Brookside Community development while Kathy Schick will represent our interests in the Spanos Park Development.

The committee set their focus on (1) maintaining wildlife habitat, (2) establishing of oak tree ordinances, and (3) preserving reasonable access to wildlife areas. In addition to the committee's surveillance of our area's fast-paced development, a sub-committee plans to be involved with the upcoming General Plan hearings for the City of Stockton and for the County of San Joaquin, in order to help form policies which will encourage reasonable planning. Another sub-committee continues to work on pushing the state to acquire a replacement property for Brovelli Woods.

For now the members feel that Stockton Audubon's energies can best be spent in local concerns, preserving our small sliver of the globe. However, President and conservation committee member Vic Wykoff has agreed to review a request from National Audubon that we all pressure our representatives in Congress to attach "sustainable development" requirements to foreign aid.

Kathy Schick



## NATURE CENTER HAS NEW HOURS.....NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

After July first, the Oak Grove Nature Center will be open to the public Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9:30pm for special programs. Starting in July the Center will be staffed by volunteers only. Plan now to come out and visit the Center during its new hours, see the changes we've made and choose from the many exciting summer programs for children and whole families.

For the past year many of us have enjoyed being able to visit the Oak Grove Nature Center on any day of the week. This center, featuring museum like displays of native animals and live fish, was open daily because the county parks department had been able to hire a full-time naturalist and two part-time assistants. These professional employees developed special programs to help the public explore nature in the Oak Grove, including popular Thursday evening nature walks in the summer and week-long programs for children.

As part of a general spending cut (which resulted from the defeat of the County Jail Bond election, and continued plans to build the jail), the county has eliminated all but one half-time naturalist position at Oak Grove. The staff hours will be spent on the special summer children's programs already scheduled. Opening the Nature Center for the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm will be done totally by volunteers. The Thursday evening nature walks and center programs this summer are scheduled from July 13 through August 24th. Oak Grove Docents number only a few active volunteers and they would appreciate help from those familiar with this beautiful natural area and center. If you have time to give and would like to treat yourself to a pleasant afternoon at the Oak Grove Nature Center, call Esther Wager (477-9216) or Joan Franco (931-4286) to help out.

## SHOULD STOCKTON AUDUBON BECOME SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON?

There has been a proposal made to change the name of our group since many of our members reside in other cities, not just Stockton. The membership and its distribution has changed a lot since the 1950's when the name was chosen.

There would be some small costs involved in the name change and the historical value of the old name would be lost but it would better represent the nature of our organization. What do you think? If you have concerns you should direct them to any of our Board members.

## GRUPE DEVELOPMENT STOPS LEVEE BIKE PATH

The Stockton City Council recently approved the final plans for the Brookside West Development which will not include the long planned bike path along the Calaveras River levee. The approved plan will also restrict access to the waterway in this area. The development was planned in such a way that conflicts between private homes and the bike-jogging-birding pathway were unavoidable. This was an unnecessary conflict, the golf course could have been adjacent to the levee



# BIRDS

Apr. 9, 3 Calliope Hummers & a Hammond's Flycatcher at CHR., Apr 18 a Franklin's Gull at SSP. Apr 19, a Purple Finch at LL. Apr. 20 3 Black Rails & 4 Blue Grosbeak at Bacon Island. May 2, 2 Swainson's Thrush at LL. May 5, 150 Cedar Waxwing, 35 Warbling Vireo, a Hammond's Flycatcher, 5 solitary Vireo, a Nashville Warbler, 3 Yellow Warbler, a Blk-th Gray, 4 Townsend's, a Hermit, and 15 Wilson's Warblers. 12 W. Tanager, a Hooded Oriole and 3 Lazuli Bunting all at Lodi Lake. Jim Rowth reports 49 birds observed on a trip to the Galapagos Isles including 9 types of Darwin's Finches. Other birds observed included the Galapagos Penguin, & Galapagos Hawk. He also can supply you with a list of 1145 Ecuadoran species observed if you are considering a trip to the south. May 9 a West. Grebe and 10 Spotted Sandpiper at SSP. May 10 2 Clark's Grebe at Turner Cut. May 16 Dan Gifford observed an Osprey at Lodi Lake. May 20 David observed an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Caswell S.P.. May 20 the Schicks observed a Blue Grosbeak near the Mokelumne west of Lodi... On the trip led by Waldo Holt to Electra a Golden Eagle was observed. Waldo also reports a Swainson's Hawk nesting at Oak Grove Park on May 23. June 2 Jim Rowth reports a flock of Red-masked Conures in Stockton. (He is becoming a tropical bird expert, Ed.) June 2 David observed a MacGillivray's Warbler at White Slough. June 3, 3 Cassin's Kingbirds at Hillside Greens Golfcourse, 2 Willow Flycatcher at CHR and a Gadwall X Mallard Hybrid at SSP. June 3 Our field trip group observed the following and much much more at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Evening and B.H. Grosbeaks, Hermit Warblers, Solitary Vireo nesting, Ghost Orchids, Azalea in bloom., a snakefly and several Ant Lion Larvae, on our way home we observed a Wood Duck near Valley Springs. June 5 a Great Blue Heron was observed nesting at Murpheys, Calaveras County by the Bill Harpers. June 8 David observed a Ring-necked Duck and a Semipalmated Plover at SSP. June 7 found 16 White-faced Ibis at LSP. June 9 13 Black-bellied Plover and a Bonie Gull at LSP. June 10 leader John Schick and 9 other observers observed 54 species including 5 Common Yellowthroat and 5 Ash-throated Flycatchers during their monthly Cosumnes Preserve count. June 14 found an Osprey and a West. Flycatcher at LL. June 16 Steve Stocking observed a Winter Wren building its nest of moss near Barton's Post Camp in Kings Canyon N.P. Tulare Co. When not otherwise noted, observations are by David Yee. CHR is Corral Hollow Road LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds LL is Lodi Lake Park



## COSUMNES BIRD LIST AVAILABLE

After a year and a half of monthly censuses by hard-working Stockton Audubon members, the Cosumnes River Preserve bird species checklist is out. The list covers nearly 160 species and correlates sighting abundance and season. The Nature Conservancy was so pleased to have a list that they ordered 500 copies to distribute to visitors at Cosumnes. Checklists will be available at our general meetings. Thanks to John & Kathy Schick for putting the list together.

Saturday Sept 16. MARIN HEADLANDS FIELD TRIP. We will meet Keith Hansen atop Pt. Diablo overlooking San Francisco and the Golden Gate to witness the fall raptor migration at its best vantage point on the west coast. Provided the fog lifts, we can expect to observe over 10 species of hawks and falcons in sometimes spectacular numbers at very close range. We will meet in the Marin Headlands at 10:00am. Call David Yee if interested. 466-3337, 951-1526.



Sunday October 8 MONTEREY BAY FIELD TRIP. We will be sponsoring a 2nd trip out on Monterey Bay this fall. Then details are similar to Aug. 27. While the August trip is better for Arctian Tern, Long-tailed Jaeger and whales, the October trip gives us a better chance of bird rarities and flocking Storm-petrels. Again, send reservations to David Yee or call him if you have any questions.

## BUSH ADMINISTRATION ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP THE ARCTIC

True to his campaign promise, President Bush is determined to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development...even in light of the recent devastation caused by the EXXON spill.

The oil industry wants congress to strip the Refuge of its current protection. To win, the industry must pass S. 406: if no bill passes, the area remains off-limits to the oil companies. Legislation has been introduced to protect the Coastal Plain. Please ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor S. 39 and H.R. 39 (House of Representatives 20515, United States Senate 20510/ Washington D. C.)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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