



# THE HOOT OWL

## STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 25 #2

### Calendar



Mar-Apr 1987

STOCKTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Tuesday March 10. BIRDS OF AMERICA. Presented by Modesto Photographer Agnes Baptist. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church in Stockton at 3700 Pacific Avenue.

Stockton Audubon Board Meeting. 7:30, Mar. 17 at the home of Lois Davis.

STOCKTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Tuesday April 14. BIRDS OF PREY. This unique program, presented by Joe Alkins will include information on the trapping and relocation of Hawks. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church in Stockton. All members and friends are invited to these meetings, for information call: 931-5491.

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW. April 4-5 at the Museum at Micke Grove. Park Admission fee.

AUDUBON BIRDATHON. Sunday April 26. Would you like to be a sponsor of a counter at 10¢ a species (or more)? Or would you like to be a counter and receive an embroidered Audubon Birdathon Patch and our thanks for raising money for the good works of both Stockton and National Audubon? If you would, call Stockton Audubon Birdathon Coordinator Steve Stocking at 465-2729 by April 22.

#### FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday March 7. Hogan & Pardee Reservoirs. Meet at Burn's Tower, U.O.P at 8am. For further information call Steve Stocking at 465-2729. (new phone #)

Saturday March 21. Corral Hollow Road. Situated along the southwest corner of the county, Corral Hollow Road cuts through the Inner Coast Ranges. Chaparral and riparian habitats here provide nesting sites for Eagles, Prairie Falcons and the Roadrunner. Wildflowers also abound. Most of the area is private property but we have gained special permission to enter and observe the wildlife. Meet leader John Schick at 7:30 at U.O.P's Burn's Tower to carpool. Bring water and lunch. Call 464-7083 for more information.

Saturday April 4. Darwin Farms. This area along the eastern border of the county will be new for us. George Welch, who is always looking for new places locally, has gained special access. The area is comprised of rolling hills covered with oaks which should provide us with some interesting wildlife. We'll walk the area at a leisurely pace so bring water and a lunch. Meet George at Burn's Tower, U.O.P. at 7:30. Call 477-9618 for information.

Saturday April 18. McGurk Ranch. Excellent riparian habitat along the Calaveras River is the attraction here. Scheduled to coincide with the onset of spring migration, movement of passerines should be exciting. Nesting Wood Ducks & Hawks are expected. Meet George Welch at Burn's Tower at 7:30 to carpool.

Saturday April 25 Oak Island. This small piece of property is owned by the Tracy Wildlife Association. It is home to many species of birds. Join Terry Ronneberg for what should be an excellent morning of birding as the spring migration will be at its height. Meet him at the intersection of Tracy Blvd. and Finck Road, Just north of Tracy at 8:00. Information: 835-7847.

Saturday May 2. Lodi Lake: For information on this morning trip see page #3.

## THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN LION IS IN DANGER

Mountain lions may be relentlessly chased by a pack of hounds and shot at point blank range for trophy for the first time in 15 years, pending a decision of the California Fish and Game Commission. Overwhelming public opposition to the Department of Fish and Game recommendation to resume lion trophy hunting is needed to protect this majestic animal. The Commission will be holding the third of three hearings on April 10 in Sacramento at the Resources Building Auditorium 1416 9th Street at 9:00am. Letters should be sent as soon as possible to: California Fish & Game Commission  
1416 9th Street, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

## NEW REFUGE PRIORITY PROJECTS WOULD AID WILDLIFE

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a number of exciting new refuge programs for the 100th Congress to consider this coming year using monies derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Among the new acquisition projects proposed are East Grasslands, Finnegan Cut, and Colusa Basin all located in California.

East Grasslands in western Merced County would use LWCF monies to acquire fee title to the Gallo Ranch (5,000 acres) on the northern boundry of San Luis Island NWR. In addition it would use duck stamp monies to acquire conservation easements on 30,000 acres of private wetlands adjacent to San Luis Island and Merced NWR's.

Finnegan Cut, located 10 miles west of Modesto in the Central Valley is also the site of Audubon's newest acquisition, Christman Island. Our sanctuary, 780 acres in size would form the nucleus of a new USFWS proposal to develop a 5,000 acre refuge at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

Colusa Basin, in the Sacramento Valley is the object of a proposal which would acquire a 1040 acre ranch that bisects the existing NWR splitting it in two units. Purchase of the area would unify the management of the refuge and allow the conversion of the ranch back to its original wetland state.

Audubon members can help in the campaign to see these and other worthy areas protected by writing letters in support of these acquisitions to your local congressman.

## MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER SEMINAR: SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

This seminar will be offered a week earlier than last year because of our dry weather. It will be held the weekend of June 26 through June 28. The location; forests and meadows of the General Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park, 60 miles east of Fresno at an elevation of 6,500 feet. For more information call your editor, the instructor, Steve Stocking at 465-2729 most any evening.

## SELENIUM PROBLEMS CONTINUE

Responding to information provided by the Department of Fish and Game on high selenium levels detected in San Francisco Bay area waterfowl, the Department of Health Services has declared surf scoter and scaup taken from Suisun Bay to be a health risk. Health Services has issued precautionary notices similar to those issued for the Kesterson Reservoir area advising limited ingestion of Suisun Bay Waterfowl.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also recently began a study to: (1) Check levels of selenium and other contaminants in the San Joaquin kit fox (an endangered species), and check exposure of the kit fox to contaminants in the vicinity of Kesterson Reservoir.

## ACTION TO PROTECT HABITAT ON THE CALAVERAS RIVER

When the local Delta-Sierra Group of the Sierra Club discovered the destruction of wildlife habitat along the lower Calaveras River in Stockton, Stockton Audubon members cooperated by contacting their County Supervisors.

The Flood Control District was clearing shrubs and trees on small islands in the stream which harbor quail, other birds and wildlife. The Sierra Club contacted the State Fish and Game which informed the District that they had no permit for such activities and must confine their actions in the future to removal of the exotic "cane" on the islands.

# BIRDS

Except as noted, sightings are by David Yee.

SSP= Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL= Lodi Lake,

LSP= Lodi Sewage Ponds.

Golden Eagle, 1-5, Hiway 12 near Fairfield by the Schicks. Red-br Nuthatch and 10 Varied Thrush on 1-7 at Stockton Rural Cemetary. A Little Gull at SSP and a Saw-whet Owl and 15 M. Bluebirds east of Stockton on 1-10. Three Mountain Plover and a Thayer's Gull near Byron on 1-12. A Common Yellowthroat on Woodbridge Road on 1-17 by the Schicks. Also on 1-17 there was one stray Brown Shrike and there were many hundreds of birders at Pt Reyes. Those of you who didn't experience it first hand probably read about it in the Chronicle or saw it on the evening news. On the same day George Welch saw a "Bewick's Swan near Hiway 12. David and Kurt Mize observed a Tufted Duck X Scaup Hybrid on a Darwin Farm Pond on 1-16. On 1-26 at Commanche N. Shore Chambers, Miller, Stocking & Stocking observed Osprey, B. Phoebe, Painopepla, 15 Canada Geese on Pardee and Ring-necked Ducks on the Pond near Valley Spring. On 1-31 Barbara Taylor observed at large flock of D1 Br Cormorants on Lake Lincoln in Stockton. Nancy Greenwood observed a large flock of swans on Hiway 12, 2 miles west of I-5. On 2-7 there were 5 Lesser Yellowlegs and a Ruff out near Woodbridge Road.

Eric Caine, Stanislaus Audubon President kindly led a group of about 20 Stockton Audubon members to areas west of Modesto near the San Joaquin River. We saw over 35 species including Snipe, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Tree Swallow and much of the wintering population of the small Alutian race of Canada Geese. On 2-10 there was a Cliff Swallow and a Barn Swallow on Woodbridge Road and a Lesser Golden Plover at LSP. 2-12 found 2 Cattle Egret, a "Blue" Snow Goose, a "Blue" Ross Goose and one N. Shrike on Empire Tract near 8 Mile Road. On 2-14 George Welch, David Yee and Terry Ronneberg observed 150 Green-wing Teal and a Green-wing "Common" Teal on Woodbridge Road. T.R. Chambers observed both a Golden Eagle and a R.L. Hawk near Bellota on 2-15. David had a big day on 2-16 when he observed 2 Swainson's Hawk on Empire Tract, a single Solitary Vireo, a White-th Sparrow, two Winter Wren and a Blk-th Gray Warbler at LL, one Eurasian Wigeon at Clements Pond, a Mew Gull, 5 White-th Swift, 2 Clark's Grebe at Camanche and 2 Phainopepla and four Hooded Merganser at Campo Seco. On 2-17 there were 2 Rough-winged Swallows over Stockton, and two Little Gulls, one at LSP and one at SSP. On 2-22 the Stockings observed many swans, Bufflehead, Carvasback and Sandhills in the flooded fields along Hiway 12, two miles west of I-5.

## Field Trip Information Continued from Page #1

Saturday May 2, Lodi Lake. Our traditional spring visit to the "wilderness" area along the Mokelumne River is consistently one of our best. The rich riparian habitat attracts many species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and many other migrants. Rarities are a regularity here with Black & White Warbler & Rose-breasted Grosbeak found last year. Meet Kurt Mize at 7:30 at the end of Laurel Street off Turner Road on the east side of Lodi Lake Park. 957-0676.

(You may have seen articles on this area during the last year in the local newspapers. Lodi science teachers and students, with the co:operation of Stockton Audubon were successful in protecting this important riparian habitat area from threatened and short-sighted destruction.)

## Distributional Checklist of North American Birds

This is a compendium of state and provincial bird lists developed using identical criteria for all 50 states of the United States and all 12 provinces and territories of Canada. It features 51 full-page 8½ by 11 black-and-white drawings by Tony Bennett Jr. & Keith Hansen. Space is provided for the serious birder to keep and update state, provincial and North American life lists. The cost is \$30 plus \$1.80 sales tax for California residents. Make checks payable to Artemisia Press, P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, Ca. 93541; (619) 647-6496.



OAK GROVE DOCENT  
FREE WORKSHOPS  
1987

In addition to our educational monthly meetings, we hold weekend workshops each spring in which we offer nature education to the public. These weekend workshops are especially useful for teachers who might someday bring their classes to the Oak Grove and to future docents.

This year our two workshops will be on two consecutive Saturdays in March (the 21st and 28th) from 10 AM to 3 PM. Please try to register prior to the workshops so we can have an accurate count for the FREE LUNCH we will provide all participants.

To register call Kathy Schick 464-7083 (evenings)

Workshops convene in the Nature Center at Oak Grove Regional Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1987

- 10:00-10:10 Welcome to the Nature Center and Oak Grove  
10:10-10:30 A look at the TRAIL GUIDE, with discussion by Docents  
10:30-11:30 Docent led tour of the YOKUTS TRAIL  
11:30-12:00 A talk on INVERTEBRATES of the Oak Grove especially Insects and "Creepy Crawlies" by Kathy Schick  
12:00-12:30 Break for PICNIC LUNCH (provided by Oak Grove Docents)  
12:30-1:00 Brief tour of the NATURE CENTER  
1:00-1:30 A talk on INDIANS of the Oak Grove by Kathy Schick  
1:30-3:00 PLANTS of the Oak Grove (annuals, shrubs, and OAK TREES) by Steve Stocking including a walk on the MIWOK TRAIL

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1987

- 10:00-10:30 Docent led tour of TOUCH TABLE at the Nature Center  
10:30-12:00 Walk on the Trails looking for WILDFLOWERS led by botanist Nancy Greenwood  
12:00-12:30 Break for PICNIC LUNCH (provided by Oak Grove Docents)  
12:30-1:00 SLIDE SHOW of the Oak Grove by Lynne Terry  
1:00-1:30 GAMES, OBIS, DOCENT COLORING BOOK, etc., or "What to Do on a Rainy Day" by Docents Ann Mullin, Lynne Terry, and Lois Davis  
1:30-2:00 A talk on BIRDS, MAMMALS, AND REPTILES of the Oak Grove by Ann Mullin  
2:00-3:00 A walk on the YOKUTS TRAIL looking for birds, mammals and reptiles led by docents

WHAT THE CRANES NEED:

"About 110 whooping Cranes, the highest number since conservation efforts began for the endangered species in the 1930's are wintering along the Texas coast." "It is basically surviving by itself," said Tom Stehn, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist at the refuge. "The bird gets all the credit. We don't really do much active management beyond protecting the habitat. The idea is mainly to leave them alone."

## Audubon Adventures Update

### Audubon Adventures tops 5,000 clubs!

With the start of a new calendar year, the youth program crossed the 5,000 club mark. A \$25,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation pushed the club numbers over 5,000, establishing 200 new clubs in communities where G.E. has facilities in New York, Connecticut, and Vermont.

### Audubon Month

This year the April Audubon month focus will be on tropical forests. In addition to a special poster and leader's guide to be sent to all Audubon Adventures classrooms, a special packet is being assembled for each state information and education chief. Audubon chapter volunteers will assist by hand carrying the information to state capitols.

*For more information on how you can sponsor an Audubon Adventures club, contact your chapter's education chairperson.*



## 1987 AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST PROGRAMS

### Nature Photography in Wyoming:

The Wind River Mountains, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park are the settings for this field seminar on the use of 35 mm camera equipment. Professional photographers led by Perry Conway (producer of a dozen educational filmstrips) will guide you in photographing mountain scenery and wildlife. Five days are spent at the Audubon Camp, three days in Yellowstone and one day in Grand Teton National Park.

Dates: June 19 - June 28, 1987

### Audubon Camp in the West for Adults

Geology speaks from the massive rock walls, and petroglyphs stir your curiosity in sessions on native American culture and wilderness values. Unique birds, mammals, insects, and flowers are tools in the art of understanding this rugged mountain environment. There is also time for hiking, rock climbing, square dancing, canoeing, and volleyball - plus an optional float trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. 3 two-week sessions and 1 one-week session are available.

Dates: Session 1 June 26 - July 3, 1987  
2 July 5 - July 17, 1987  
3 July 19 - July 31, 1987  
4 August 2 - August 14, 1987

## 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*

You get all this and more with a subscription to *Audubon Activist*, the new, bimonthly newspaper for Audubon members who want to make a difference.

Subscribe today. Send your name, address, and zip code, along with six dollars (for one year), to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society.

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
*Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

## WILDERNESS RESEARCH BACKPACK TRIP

Participate in an extensive, ongoing research effort by Audubon biologists while backpacking in the spectacular Wind River Mountains and/or Absaroka Mountains. Learn the skills of bird and mammal censusing, bird banding, insect survey and collection, plant identification, and herbarium collection. Small groups of 10 persons (maximum) will accompany our research staff on 12-day expeditions. Moderate hiking ability needed to cover 5-7 miles daily.

Dates:

Session 1A Wind River Mountains  
June 21 - July 3, 1987  
1B Absaroka Mountains  
June 21 - July 3, 1987  
2A Wind River Mountains  
July 5 - 17, 1987  
2B Absaroka Mountains  
July 5 - 17, 1987

For more information: please contact:  
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