



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 26 #2

Calendar



Mar-Apr 1988

- FIELD TRIP: Sun Mar 6 Foothill Reservoirs and Ponds. Meet at 8am at Burn's Tower U.O.P. For more info. see Jan-Feb Hoot Owl.
- STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING: Tuesday Mar 8 Speaker Joe Atkinson will present an illustrated program on the American Kestrel and will discuss recent research on this interesting bird. Meet at the United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave. at 7:30 pm.
- FIELD TRIP: Sat Mar 12. Brovelli Woods. Meet at 7:30am at Breuner's parking lot. For more information see Jan-Feb. Hoot Owl.
- COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE BIRD CENSUS. Volunteers are needed to help with this census the morning of March 12. We will meet at the preserve at 8am. For information call John Schick at 464-7083.
- FIELD TRIP SAT MAR 19. CORRAL HOLLOW ROAD. Here are the only mountains in San Joaquin County with chaparral, high cliffs and riparian areas. Roadrunner, Prairie Falcon and Raven nest here. Hopefully the wildflowers will be in bloom. Most of the area is private property, but we have gained special permission to enter and observe the wildlife. Meet at U.O.P. at 7:30am. to carpool. Bring water & lunch. Call John Schick at 464-7083 for further information.
- MORNING AT THE OAK GROVE. SAT MAR 26 we will meet at Oak Grove Regional Park to observe a few birds at 8am and then spend about 2 hours taking care of the native plants. Call Karl Kothe at 464-1004 or Steve Stocking at 465-2729 for information.
- FIELD TRIP; SUN MAR 27. ATKINSON RANCH. Joe Atkinson, our March Speaker, will lead us onto his property in the eastern part of the county. Large numbers of waterfowl congregate on the numerous ponds throughout the property. He will arrange to have a falconer present to show us his Peregrines and Gyrfalcon. Meet at Burns Tower, UOP at 7:30. Call George Welch, 477-9618 for more information.
- COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE BIRD CENSUS. Again the second Saturday will be the day and 8am the time. April 9. 464-7083.
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. The program is even now being arranged with the topic to be announced at the March meeting. The day will be Tuesday April 12, and the time 7:30. Call George Welch at 477-9618 to learn more.

For more trips and information see page 2.

FIELD TRIP GRIZZLY ISLAND Saturday April 16. This state wildlife area in the Delta has some of the highest densities of ducks and short-eared owls in the U.S.. Fish & Game biologist Bob Smith will first brief us on the area, take us to known nest areas and then let us roam on our own. The area is almost to Fairfield on Hiway 12. The headquarters, where we will meet at 10am, is about 10 miles south of Hiway 12 on Grizzly Island Road. It takes about 1 hour to drive there. Bring lunch, insect repellent & camera. Call David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337 for information.

FIELD TRIP; LODI LAKE. Saturday April 23. Our annual spring visit to this excellent riparian area along the Mokelumne River attracts many species of migrating landbirds. We expect to see up to 8 species of warblers, 3 species of vireos, 6 species of flycatchers and many more. Join Kurt Mize at 7:30 at the end of Laurel St off Turner on the east side of Lodi Lake Park. 957-0676 for information.

WEEKEND FIELD TRIP. April 29,30 and May 1. **CARSON & PYRAMID LAKES** This should be a most exciting & eventful trip for us. Jack Walters of Carson City has invited us to visit the Great Basin area during its best season. On Saturday Jack and a non-game field biologist will lead us to Carson Lake and Fernley wildlife refuge near the City of Fallon. We will be present during the height of the nesting season and can expect to see up to 8,000 avocets, 7,000 stilts and 10,000 white-faced Ibis as well as many species of ducks. On Sunday they will take us to Pyramid Lake, home of one of the largest breeding colonies of White Pelican. Even without the wildlife, the sheer beauty of the high desert will be captivating. Jack has provided camping facilities near Fallon that are big enough to take R.V.'s.. He requests an early Saturday morning start so encourages a Friday evening arrival. (about 4 hrs drive) Call David Yee at 466-3337 or 951-1526 for maps and more information on this special trip.

SACRAMENTO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY: "PREDATORS OF KENYA" 8pm at the Forest Suite of the University Union at California State University Sacramento. Friday April 29.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF DAVID GAINES

The most fitting memorial to this outstanding naturalist, ecologist, conservationist would be to support an effort which would continue to educate the public about Mono Lake.

You can do this by contributing to the Mono Lake Committee with the provision that your donation be used for acquisition of the Mono Lake Visitors Center. (To be tax deductible: Make it to Mono Lake Foundation) The Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, Ca. 93541.

IN MEMORIAL

Carlton Shanks, a longtime Stockton Audubon member died recently at the age of 90. He entertained Stockton Audubon members for many years with his fine bird photography. He was preceded in death by his wife Doris who was one of the early presidents of Stockton Audubon. We also note the passing of Dr Pedro Osuna who too had been a longtime Audubon supporter while he was a professor at University of the Pacific.



OAK GROVE DOCENTS OFFER NATURE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Oak Grove Docent Council is presenting its ninth annual FREE nature workshop on Saturday, March 19, 1988, from 8:30 am to 3 pm. The workshop will be held at the Nature Center in Oak Grove Regional Park which is located on Eight Mile Road just east of Interstate-5. Lectures and tours of the nature area will be featured during the workshops.

This workshop offers a thorough examination of the Valley Oak and its relationship with the plants and animals indigenous to the area. Attending the workshop will qualify participants to become docents. Oak Grove Docents are all volunteers who conduct tours of the trail and keep the Nature Center open to the public on Saturday afternoons. During the past eight years Docent activities have exposed thousands of San Joaquin County area students and adults to the history and uniqueness of this fascinating area.

Coffee, doughnuts, and iced tea will be provided to participants, who should bring a bag lunch. Please make reservations by March 12th. For more information and reservations, please call: Kathy (464-7083) or Lynne (951-0385) or the County Parks Department.

TWO DAMS PROPOSED FOR LITTLEJOHN CREEK

The Oakdale Irrigation District has applied to the State Water Resources Control Board for permission to appropriate water from Littlejohn Creek in Calaveras County. This project will require the construction of two dams on Littlejohn Creek which would store a total of 62,000 acre-feet per year. Besides the dams, a 2800 foot tunnel will be constructed from the Stanislaus River to one of the dams.

It should be noted that these reservoirs are to be downstream from the proposed Rock Creek Landfill (dump). Rock Creek is near Milton. The Stockton East Water District also has a proposal to use the lower sections of Littlejohn Creek as a channel to bring water from Goodwin Dam into our county. Farmers in the area have objected that the natural riparian habitat of the creek would be destroyed by this greatly increased flow of water.

THANKS TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Recent newspaper articles have noted illegal hunting activities which have been uncovered in this area by Fish and Game wardens. One group of citizens was fined for the baiting of doves. Two other groups were found to have well over their limits of ducks.

In addition a "hunter" was captured by a citizen after he shot and wounded a red tailed hawk, while yet others were fined for shooting the protected tundra swans. It appears that more education of such "hunters" is needed to stop these reprehensible occurrences. We wonder how many similar shootings have gone undetected?

IT IS TAX TIME; GIVE TILL IT HELPS !

Line 45 on your California tax form allows you to contribute to the California Rare and Endangered Species Program. Your donation, deductible on State and Federal itemized returns, will be used for wildlife preservation projects throughout California.



BIRDS

All sightings by David Yee unless another observer is mentioned. LL is Lodi Lake, LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds & SSP Stockton Sewage Ponds, SEND IN YOUR OBSERVATIONS.

1-19 A Greater Scaup & a Thayer's Gull at SSP. 1-20 A Little Gull at SSP
 1-21 a White-th Sparrow e. of Linden. 1-25 1200 Cedar Waxwings on the Delta College campus. 1-26 6 Chipping Sparrow, Acampo. 1-27. 2 Black-th Gray Warbler at LL. 1-27 a Red Naped Sapsucker in a Stockton Sycamore by S.Stocking. 1-30 2 Steller's Jay and 6 Cassin's Finch in the sw part of the county. 1-30, 300 Yellow-headed Blackbirds on Bouldin Island. by E. Platti.
 2-1 350 California Gull & 4 Forster's Tern at Dad's Point, Stockton: Karl Kothe and 2 Purple Finch in his yard the same day. 2-6 a Wilson's Phalarope at LSP and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at LL. as well as a Merlin on Woodbridge Road. 2-7, 800 White Pelicans over n.w. Stockton by the Terrys. 2-9 a Eurasian Wigeon at Woodbridge Road. 2-13 3 Red-th Loon on S>J> River, a Lesser Golden-Plover at LSP, a Bendires Thrasher at Acampo and 2 Bald Eagles at Camanche.. 2-14 Willets, Turnstones, Oystercatchers, B.S. Kite, N.Harrier on Mendocino Coast by Lamms, Boubeliks & Stockings. Also on 2-14 Jeff Ryan observed Ferruginous Hawk, 20 Bald Eagles, West & Mt. Bluebirds and 4 groups of W Grebe doing mating activites at Salt Springs Reservoir. 2-15 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Violet-gr Swallow and a Cliff Swallow at Woodbridge Road. 8 Short-eared Owl observed at Grizzly Island by the Welches. 2-16 a STORK SIGHTED OVER THE HOME OF JEFF & HEATHER RYAN said stork delivered an 8lb, 8oz girl.....ZOEY> (this is a new county record)ed)
 2-19 a Rough-legged Hawk on Highway 12 near Fairfield by S&L Stocking. 2-20, 13 Short-eared Owls observed at grizzly Island by G. Welch & Neil Kerr. 2-26 S>Stocking & class observed many Sandhill Crane and a Red-sh Hawk near the corner of I-5 and 12. Nancy Greenwood enjoyed an Elder-hostel program last month on the Texas Coast. They observed 100 species, and 29 were new for her. Great birds included Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, 21 Whooping Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, Green Jay & Vermillion Catcher.

THE ESKIMO CURLEW LIVES!

There have been several sightings of this rare species in recent years including a possible nesting pair. Meetings are being held to discuss ideas for bringing the species back from the brink of extinction. Protection is needed for known migration stopover areas.

OZONED; BUT WE DON'T ACT LIKE IT

The EPA recently listed 76 cities which did not meet federal air pollution standards for ozone levels and 81 cities over the limit for carbon monoxide. Los Angeles headed both lists. Cities which don't reduce pollution levels in compliance with the standards face a loss of highway, sewer and construction funds..

On this list Modesto ranks number 32 and Stockton number 35. But still our leaders of government continue to approve "cogeneration plants" which will burn various types of fuel and help to add to our already dirty skies. Coal burning plants are already approved in Stockton and others in the planning stages in San Joaquin county will burn agricultural wastes and other fuels.



NEW VIDEO ON LIMITS

Stockton Audubon Society now has the 23 minute videotape made by National Audubon Society entitled What is the Limit?. This video is a tapestry of graphic visual images and statistics demonstrating the inter-relationships of population increase and degradation of our global environment. There is so much information in this short presentation that the viewer may feel compelled to watch it at least once again to catch those fast facts - such as "human population hit 5 billion in 1987."

The video looks at population as part of a biological system, examining the Earth's carrying capacity. It suggests that famine in Africa is a direct result of population which has exceeded the carrying capacity there. A US congresswoman suggests that border wars in Africa are a result of famines, thus tying wars to population.

The economics of "developed" and "under-developed" are dealt with sensitively, and we are told that 90% of the annual population increase is in "underdeveloped" nations, thus forcing people to destroy the world's rain forests for such meager profit as marginal agriculture and fuel. (At the same time, developed nations spend over one trillion dollars annually for military weapons.) In the next 25 years, over 50 of these under-developed nations are expected to have their already crowded populations double.

It concludes, "We don't have all the answers. We're just beginning to ask the right questions. We are being forced to confront new issues that are uncomfortable."

We encourage members and non-members to view this free. (VHS format) Call Kathy Schick 473-3290 (daytime) to borrow.

The Audubon Activist

From the outside, conservation issues often seem complicated and impregnable. Many Audubon members want to help stop pollution and the destruction of wildlife habitat, but do not know where to begin. Whether you are new to the environmental front lines or a savvy veteran, the *Audubon Activist* is your ticket to greater effectiveness. This bimonthly newspaper, published by National Audubon Society, gives you background information on important conservation issues, the latest legislative picture, and advice from other Auduboners who are fighting the same battles.

As a member of Audubon's Activist Team, you will also receive occasional "Action Alerts," which are one-page summaries of issues that need your urgent attention. This system works: your voice will be heard.

For a free sample issue of the "Activist" (subscriptions are \$9 a year), write: *Audubon Activist*, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Arctic Issue Heats Up

The oil industry, with the full support of the Reagan Administration and the Department of Interior, is making every effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Conservationists are equally determined to keep the industry out of this large and most northerly refuge.

Congress must decide whether the Arctic refuge will remain our last great unspoiled wilderness or become another Prudhoe Bay. Since the oil industry knows that their best shot is while Reagan is still in office, its high-dollar lobbyists are turning up the heat on representatives and senators.

Many of you have been following this issue—one of National Audubon Society's high priority campaigns—in the pages of *Audubon Activist* and in this newsletter. Now is the time to take action.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has delayed consideration of pro-development legislation THREE times, thanks to the letters and phone calls from Auduboners around the country asking that the committee look for alternatives to opening up the refuge.

But now, the oil and gas industry is redoubling its efforts to move legislation forward. This is a crucial time for the refuge in the Senate, and more letters to your senators are needed—particularly if your senator sits on the Energy Committee. Key votes on that committee include: Weicker (Conn.), Ford (Ky.), Bumpers (Ark.), Melcher (Mont.), Bingaman (N.M.), and Conrad (N.D.).

Even if your senator is not on this list, let him or her know that you oppose oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It's important that we tell our side of the story now, as the oil and gas lobbyists make the rounds. Write your representative in the House as well.

If you would like more information on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other issues, please call Connie Mahan at Audubon's Washington, D.C., office, (202) 547-9009.

