



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 27 #2

Calendar



Mar-Apr 1989

Tuesday Mar. 7 The Stockton City Planning Commission will hold a hearing on the proposed Calaveras River Bike Path Extension. The Stockton Audubon Board voted at their February meeting to support the path on the levee.

Tuesday Mar 14. STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. U.O.P. Graduate Student Lorna Anness, who studied the rare Mt. Gorilla in Africa will be our speaker. She studied group behavior of the animals with Dr. David Watts for one year at the Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church at the corner of Pacific & Fulton in Stockton. Free parking & refreshments.

Saturday Mar. 18 FIELD TRIP: Corral Hollow. Our annual visit to the "mountains" of San Joaquin Co. Here among high cliffs and coastal sage we will find gorgeous scenery, beautiful wildflowers and exciting birds. We will expect to see Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Painopepla & Roadrunner. Call Terry Ronneberg for this full day trip. 835-7847.

Tuesday Mar. 28 Stockton Audubon Board Meeting at the home of Geo Welch.

Wednesday Mar.29. Tom Griggs of the Nature Conservancy will speak at Sierra Club at 7:30, Great American Savings, 433 W. Ben Holt. (CORRECTED DATE).

Sunday April 2. FIELD TRIP: Greater Stockton Area. An enjoyable morning jaunt through some local parks. This should be appreciated by both beginner and experienced birders as we take aim at local nesters like kestrel, magpie, 3 species of woodpecker, Blk-crowned Night Heron and more. Meet Waldo Holt at 8:00am at Burns Tower, U.O.P. 462-4438.

April 7-9 California & Nevada Audubon Chapter Leadership Conference. Davis "A Blueprint for Audubon Action in 1989". Call Victor Wykoff for information and possible rideshare at 477-0376.

April 8-9. San Joaquin Co. Wildflower Show at Mickes Grove Historical Museum.

Tuesday April 11 STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. Pete Ottesen, outdoors writer for the Stockton Record will speak on: "THE FUTURE OF WILDLIFE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY. Mr. Ottesen is well informed, an interesting speaker and very concerned about the San Joaquin River, our wildlife refuges and the wildlife and recreation which depends upon these resources. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church at the corner of Pacific & Fulton, Stockton. Free parking.

Saturday April 15 FIELD TRIP: Mc Gurk Ranch. Despite the drought, spring migration still takes place. We will visit a traditional migrant-trap as well as study the effects of low water along the Calaveras. Flycatchers, warblers, vireos and others should be numerous. Meet George Welch at U.O.P. Burns Tower, at 7:00am to carpool. Call him at 4779618 for directions.



SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Saturday April 22. STOCKTON AUDUBON BIRDATHON.

What is a "birdathon"? It is a fund-raising device that puts you to work doing what many of you like to do best...watch birds. We need two types of people to make this one a success; those who participate on the birdathon and obtain sponsors for themselves, and those who will help to get sponsors for the birdathon participants. The money raised from the birdathon will go toward local conservation projects such as the Oak Grove Regional Park and the 5 Mile Raptor Rehab Center and Western Audubon Projects. Call David Yee if you are interested in participating in any way. 951-1526/466-3337.

April 29. Arbor Day. Plantings of Valley Oak and other trees are planned for Oak Grove Park and elsewhere. If you would like to sponsor a tree or help with the project call Steve Stocking at 4652729. You can help increase the oxygen and decrease the carbon dioxide. Give a bird a place to live, work and rest while helping to improve air quality & reduce air temperature!

BIRDS

All sightings are by David Yee unless another observer is mentioned. SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds. Call your editor with your observations at 465-2729 or send to 236 W. Knoles Way Stockton 04

Dec. 16, 10 Yellow-h. Blkbirds on 8 mile Road, Dec 20 a Blk-th Gray Warbler at Dentoni Park, Dec 23 2 Thayer's Gull & a Glaucous-winged Gull at 8mile Road, Dec 30 an Avocet at SSP. Jan 4 2 C. Merganser at SSP, Jan 5 a Prairie Falcon at Farmington, Dec 7 a E. Wigeon & 3 Lesser Yellow Legs at Woodbridge Road and a Bendire's Thrasher at Acampo (still). Jan 14 a Brown Creeper at Oak Grove Park. Jan 15 an Osprey at the Fish Hatchery & 100 Canada Geese near Clements by Nancy Greenwood. Jan 16 a Gr. Scaup, 6 Bufflehead, 2 Com.. Goldeneye at Tower Park by Dave Wagner. Jan 21 Canada Geese, Hooded Merganser, Lewis Woodpecker & Painopepla at Valley Springs Pond as well as a Bald Eagle over Ione and a Rough-leg Hawk at Salt Springs Valley by N. Greenwood and S.K. & L.L. Stocking. Jan 24 60 L.Billed Curlew on Oakdale Waterford Rd by Dave Wagner Jan 29 Dave Wagner reports from the Mapes Ranch fieldtrip, Prairie Falcon, Wh. Pelicans, Aleutian Canada Geese etc. Feb 4 a Cattle Egret, 2 Swainson's Hawk, a Harlan's Hawk and 2 Short-eared Owl on Empire Tract... a Little Gull at Hwy 12 Burrow Pit and a Glaucous Gull and 800 Wh-fr Geese at Staten Is. Feb. 8 a Common Loon & a W. Greebe at Venice Is. & Cattle Egret at Empire Tract by Dave Wagner. Feb 10 Nancy Greenwood observed a Fox Sparrow in her Stockton yard. Feb 10 also found 20 Mew Gull at SSP. Feb. 11 There was a Nuttal's Woodpecker in the Stockings Stockton yard.

February 11 was also the day John Schick led the monthly census at the Cosumnes Nature Conservancy property. There were 56 species and 4,590 birds of which 3,200 were Red Winged Blackbirds and 313 Tundra Swans.

Feb 14 Nancy Greenwood observed a Coopers Hawk at her Stockton bird feeder. Her count of small birds was down for that period. Feb. 18 found a Hermit Thrush and a flock of Bushtits in the Stocking yard. Feb. 14 a Franklins Gull at SSP.

2-20 Forresters Terns abundant in the Calaveras River west of I-5, Patty Frost. 2-20 a Rufous Hummer at Davids feeder. 2-25 On the Salt Springs Valley field trip 2 Bald Eagles, a Fur. Hawk, many Lewis Woodpeckers, W. Bluebirds, a Gadwall Cin. Teal etc were observed by 11 Stockton Audubon members, who were guided by and enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Lewellen and who were in turn observed by M.O. in the form of cows, calves and even four bulls.

A BABY ON THE DOORSTEP

Birdwatchers have long known that many birds lay their eggs in the temporarily vacant nests of other birds. Swallows, starlings, cuckoos, and ducks will often keep and care for these "foreign" eggs as if they were their own. However, Yale Univ. biologists Charles and Mary Brown have recently reported a new twist on this behavior. They have observed that adult cliff-dwelling swallows will often carry one of their already-laid eggs to the nest of an unwitting, neighboring swallow. This "baby on the doorstep" strategy apparently increases an egg's chance of survival. Approximately 25% of swallow's eggs fail to hatch in the general swallow community, while only 10% of the transferred eggs fail to hatch.

Nature, January 7, 1988



RARE FALCON ROOSTS IN STOCKTON

The Peregrine Falcon which has been perching on the American Savings sign in downtown Stockton has been seen by many observers (M.O.). John Schick is one of those who has both seen it and taken a picture. The articles in the local paper indicate some disagreement between those who praise it for helping to rid the downtown of Rock Doves (pigeons) and those who wish that the falcon would eat the whole bird.

Captive breeding programs have released 500 into the wild in California and it was only a matter of time until one would find the numerous pigeons of Stockton. The Stockings and the Lawsons were among the many who have so far only tried to see the bird, others in that growing group include David Yee! and the members of the recent Stockton Audubon Salt Springs Valley field trip.

LINE 45 ITS TAX TIME

Speaking of money, as tax time nears, Californians active in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits can help protect rare and endangered wildlife by making a donation on Line 45 of the state income tax form. Donations are vital for research into habitat and survival needs of wildlife like bald eagle, peregrine falcon, desert tortoise, greater sandhill crane and San Joaquin Kit Fox.

Pete Ottesen Stockton Record



HOPE VALLEY, CARSON PASS, CARSON ICEBURG NEED YOUR HELP

Views of Hope Valley's broad meadows and rugged mountain backdrop from your cross-country ski trail or through your car window are some of the grandest in the Sierra Nevada. But Hope Valley will be permanently spoiled by development unless Congress appropriates funds in 1989 to begin buying private lands in the area. Why the rush to Save Hope Valley? Almost all of Hope Valley is privately owned, and almost all of this private land is presently on the market. The Trust for Public Land has short-term options on these lands, all of which have to be purchased between now and 1992. What about Proposition 70 funds you ask, not enough there to purchase the whole area.

Carson Pass is also in danger. Can you visualize condominiums or a subdivision at Carson Pass? Between Woods Lake and the start of the Winemucca Lake trail?

It could happen if Congress fails to appropriate money to acquire a critical 600 acre private inholding which includes parts of the Immigrant Trail, borders the scenic Carson Pass Highway and the start of trails to the Mokelumne Wilderness. The ranching family who owns wants to sell. A nonprofit conservation organization has signed an agreement with the owners to hold the land off the market during 1989 in order to allow Congress to consider appropriations for Forest Service acquisition, thus action must be taken this winter.

There are also extensive inholdings in the Carson Iceburg Wilderness on the Carson River which need to be purchased.

The support of the local Congressman is necessary for such efforts to be successful. Please call (957-7773) or write to Representative Norman Shumway, House Office Building, Washington D.C. and ask that the necessary funds be appropriated for these areas. Don't wait on this one.

BROVELLI WOODS.....LOOKS LIKE GOODBY

It appears that the Fish and Game Refuge proposed for purchase with Prop 70 funds is a lost cause. Those of you who attended the Nature Conservancy dedication recently heard Fish and Game Director Pete Bontadelli announce the purchase of this prime area. But he apparently was wrong, and so were we in thinking that this was possible when big money was not State money.

The owner of the property was offered much more by a local developer than the State could afford. We met with the attorney of the developer who explained that they plan to develop the property in a way that will not require a zoning change. The developer claims to be aware of the natural values of the property, but at the same time plans a golf course, horse facility, a road through the riparian woods, and are already cutting native vegetation in the woods.

Say goodbye to the sandhill cranes, mule deer, vernal pools, snowberry, milkweed with its swallowtails and beautiful beetles, and many of the birds. Progress?



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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