



THE HOOT OWL

San JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH-APRIL 1990

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WINDMILLS, HAWKS & EAGLES

The California Energy Commission has recently issued a report entitled: Avian Mortality at Large Wind Energy Facilities in California: Identification of a Problem.

There were 97 fatal incidents, most of which were at Altamont Pass and most involved Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. These happened between 11-84 and 4-88. Most involved collisions with the blades of the windmills, but about a third were electrocution from power lines.

I remember well our first visit to the site when we were assured that there were no problems with birds hitting the blades. This is an important corridor for raptor migration. We hope that the next report which we see will be entitled "Identification of a Solution".

SWAINSON'S HAWKS/GROWTH

The Stockton City Council adopted a plan to mitigate for the loss of habitat of this species which will be caused by the A.G. Spanos "Park" and all other developments. The Stockton Audubon Society and the Oak Grove Docents will be on the committee which will oversee the determination of fees to be collected from developers which will be used to purchase mitigation habitat.

We regret that the California State Department of Fish and Game did not appear at the February 5th hearing to ask that they be designated to determine if appropriate mitigation is being provided by the developers. The plan adopted by the City Council therefore omits the requirement that Fish and Game gives the final approval.

We are pleased that Kathy Schick, the Oak Grove Docents and Waldo Holt, with much support from others including the local group of the Sierra Club, pursued this matter for the last few years through the EIR and hearing process. They won some hard-fought concessions for this threatened species. Our Thanks.

You can help by reporting all sightings of Swainson's Hawks to Waldo Holt. Note date, behavior, and location

PLASTIC TRASH

Have you noticed all the publicity aimed at getting us to love plastic and foam? It is true that CFC's have finally be phased out as a blowing agent, but many problems remain. Union Carbide announced that it will open, in 1991, a New Jersey plant to recycle everything from plastic bags to plastic bottles. We are getting magazines wrapped in "photodegradable" plastic covers, biodegradable covers and even "degradable" covers. Most of this stuff will never get to New Jersey.

None of these approaches is reasonable. Since most of the photodegradable and biodegradable plastics wind up in landfills, they are unlikely to break down within a reasonable length of time. Why, because of the lack of light and water in well-operated landfills. In making plastics, toxic additives such as lead, cadmium pigments, and stabilizers are used. If the plastics do break down where will they go? If these bio and photodegradable plastics do get recycled they would ruin durable goods made from the recycled plastics. Degradable plastics will only undermine recycling.

"Reduce. Reuse, Recycle. For plastics, just as for other components of our waste, these are the environmentally sound options."

TAX YOURSELF FOR WILDLIFE

When you do your California State Tax remember Line 45 under Step 10. Voluntary Contributions. Even the small contributions will add up to help protect and preserve habitat for our 254 native species of plant and animal which are listed as rare, endangered, and threatened.

Don't forget the Kit Fox, Greater Sandhill Crane, Swainson's Hawk, Gray Whale, Desert Tortoise and the Pismo Clarkia!

WHY NOT HERE ?

A household toxics disposal day will be held in Sacramento on February 24.

There is no such legal disposal for household toxics anywhere in San Joaquin County. This would be a safe way to get rid of nonrecyclable toxics such as pesticides. They have a separate day for recyclable toxics such as motor oil, latex paint, asbestos materials and used auto batteries.

LEAST YOU FORGET

Remember the Audubon Television Special, "Rage Over Trees"? This was shown last September by TBS, Ted Turner broadcasting, even after all of the advertisers pulled out. Stroh's Brewery canceled its sponsorship of Audubon television after receiving heavy pressure and boycott threats from timber interests. The others which pulled out were Sears, Ford, Exxon, Citicorp, New York Life and Omni Magazine. Most cited pressure from northwestern dealers, distributors or customers.

The program fairly presented the points of view of all involved in the debate over the preservation of what is left of the Northwest's ancient forest. I have visited the northwest forests recently and seen the new forest, small trees to be grown quickly, many to be chipped for paper and others to be exported. Do not miss our April Stockton Audubon meeting on the subject of Ancient Forests.

SUCCESS IN 1989, GOALS FOR 1990

The campaign was a success in getting

monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase crucial private lands in Hope Valley, Carson Iceberg Wilderness and along the Pacific Crest Trail at Carson Pass and Castle Peak.

We have had many summer outings in the area of Carson Pass and have looked over into beautiful Hope Valley. Bet that some of you did not know that some of those beautiful areas were subject to development. Some still are, so the campaign goes on. One goal is to buy crucial lands on the floor of Hope Valley and in Faith Valley.

IT HELPS TO WRITE LETTERS

Remember Mr James Cason, proposed by the President for a HIGHLY sensitive, important position? He would have had a direct impact on logging, mining, conservation, the Spotted Owl, and many other important matters. The President DID propose Mr. Cason for the position. Cason DIDN'T get it! In fact, because so many people contacted their congressmen and senators, urging opposition to the appointment, the "word" was passed to the President and the proposed appointment was withdrawn.

DECEMBER PRINT RAFFLE

Thanks to Josh and Kim Horner for organizing the raffle which raised over \$100 for our treasury. Dr. Ann Funkhauser of the U.O.P. Biology Department was the grand winner of the Sherrie Russel print. Our thanks also to the artist for her donation of the print.

RANCHER HELPS EAGLES

One of the proposed sites for a toxic dump in Calaveras County was to be in the Salt Springs Valley near Salt Springs Reservoir. As many as 27 Bald Eagles have been wintering near the reservoir in recent years. Alberta Lewellen is a rancher who owns land on both sides of the reservoir. She has been a gracious host for Stockton Audubon Field Trips. She also has given the State hunting and development rights to more than 4,500 acres of her land to ensure that it can never be used for anything except agriculture. Primarily because of Mrs. Lewellen's concerns, this site was removed from the county list.

SAVING OR MOURNING OUR WILDLIFE; ACTION TIME!

When the California Department of Fish and Game launched its California Wildlife Program in 1989 to restore wildlife habitat and provide recreational and educational opportunities, Audubon applauded with strong endorsements. Members were called upon to directly support these efforts. However the response was dismal. Many may have been cautious of the Department which has catered to a hunting and fishing constituency, and has been marginally involved in nongame management and education issues. Some voiced conceptual support but were unconvinced the money for a pass or stamp was warranted. Others would have bought the pass if they had been available someplace that they frequented rather than the local bait shop or sporting goods store.

Wildlands Program does not receive any general tax funds and thus, relies greatly on direct public support. In its pioneer year, the Wildlands Program has initiated 15 key habitat restoration projects for endangered and threatened species. Many critically important programs await new funding.

The time to act is now. By April, the legislature will decide to continue this program or kill it depending on contributions by you and other Californians. If legislative support is denied, Californians will have lost a voice in the management of 500,000 acres of public lands where many rare and endangered species live.

The Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Program has just launched a California Wildlife Campaign to provide the opportunity or people to contribute to critical wildlife habitat projects. Your contribution to this campaign (see mailer in this newsletter) will further the Department's efforts in:

1. Restoring and preserving wildlife habitat
2. Saving endangered and threatened species
3. Educating our youth about wildlife
4. Expanding state wildlife recreation opportunities.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE; I urge all members to financially support these efforts. I challenge the San Joaquin Audubon Society to contribute a minimum of \$3,000 to this important Campaign between now and April 15. We can be a vital force in this effort for wildlife and people. We can show the legislators that wildlife and habitat protection are vital issues with strong public support. **Be sure to mark "San Joaquin Audubon Society" on your mailer when sending in your contribution. Thanks, Vic Wykoff, President, San Joaquin Audubon.**



BIRDS

Dec 26 Cooper's Hawk in Stockton yard, N. Greenwood, 12-30, 36 Mt. Bluebirds at Salt Springs Res. R. Chambers. 1-5 450 Canvasback & 3 Redheads at SSP. 1-6, Bendire's Thrasher at Acampo, 1-8 a Thayer's Gull and 40 Gr. Yellowlegs at Rindge Tract. 1-10, 3 B.S. Kites, 25 R.T. Hawks, 2 N. Harriers, 6 Kestrels, 8 Gr. Egret etc between Stockton & Sacramento on 1-5, S. Stocking. 1-12, Merlin on Delta Campus, S. Stocking. 1-13, 85 Avocets & 132 C. Snipe on S. Airport Way & 2 Glaucous-w. Gull at Tracy Landfill. 1-15, 3 Mt. Bluebirds, 100 W. Grebe, 28 C. Merganser, 4 Rock Wren, 4 Phainopepla all in E. S.J. Co near Hogan., Jim Rowath. 1-17, 2 Gr. Scaup & 1 imm Franklin's Gull at SSP by W. Holt. 1-20, 40-50,000 "white" Geese, 4-5,000 White-fr. Geese at Venice Is. 1-21, 69 species observed at the monthly Cosumnes Census, ducks, L.B. Dowitchers, T. Swans, by J. Schick and crew. 1-21, 75 Bufflehead at Tracy SP. 1-25, 15 Purple Finch at LL, 1-27, a Laysan Albatross on Monterey Fieldtrip. 2-2, B. Eagle, G. Eagle, P. Falcon, R. Wren at Salt Springs & 5 Gr. Horned Owl at Caswell by Geo. Welch & N. Kerr. 2-3, 16 Short-eared Owls at Klamath Refuges by N. Greenwood. 2-3 58 species on Our field trip to Merced Co. Duck Club including Gr. Winged Teal, Y. Rail, Sora, Aleutian Can. Goose. led by J. Schick. / 2-3 19 R.L. Hawks & 400 Tricolored Blackbirds at Staten Is; pr of Blue-w. Teal and a European Wigeon at Woodbridge Rd. 2-6, a Horned Grebe & 2 Caspian Terns at SSP by W. Holt. 2-9 2 Wh-th. Sparrow at Stockton Rural Cem. a Cliff Swallow at Buckley Cove & the Peregrine Falcon in downtown Stockton. 2-10, Bald & Golden Eagles, Cooper's Hawk & Cassin's Finch among 50 other species near Genoa Nev. by the Harper's of Murphys. 2-15 23 C. Mergansers at LL, 2-17 8 Stellar's Jays and 2 ad. Bald Eagles at Comanche and 5 Hooded Mergansers on Shelton Rd. e of Linden. 2-18 a Swainson's Hawk on Venice Is., 2-19 a Caspian Tern at Stockton Marina by Jim Rowath & James Rexroth. 2-21. a Blk-legged Kittiwake at the Stockton Marina!, 2-24 a Eur. Wigeon, a Marbled Godwit and 5 Burrowing Owls on the Woodbridge Rd. Fieldtrip. 2-25 S. Stocking & Natl. History Students observed L. billed Curlew, Ibis, W.F. Geese, S. Geese, 20 Tule Elk, W. Pelicans etc at Los Banos & San Luis Wild Life Reguges.

MARCH-APRIL CALENDAR

TUESDAY MAR. 20. ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS WILDLIFE San Joaquin Audubon meeting to be presented by member Jim Rowoth who has been there and plans to return with a group from the Zoo. 7:30pm Central United Methodist Church in Sktn.
SATURDAY MAR 24 SALT SPRINGS VALLEY RESEVOIR. John Schick will lead us to the Luwallen property in the eastern foothills. Expect many raptors, ducks & wildflowers. Pack a lunch, meet John at his home, 940 N Argonaut, 7:30am to carpool. 464-7083.
SATURDAY MAR 31. MCGURK RANCH One of the favorites, Calaveras River near Linden. Many birds nesting. Meet leader George Welch at Burn's Tower UOP at 7am. 477-9618.
SATURDAY APL. 7 CORRAL HOLLOW. Here, in our "mountain's" we will see Roadrunner, Golden Eagle, Rock Wren & others. Call leader Terry Ronneberg, 835-7847.
SATURDAY APL 14. Cosumnes River Monthly count. Call John Schick 464-7083.
TUESDAY APL 17. THE LAST OF THE ANCIENT FORESTS Slides & stories from the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Presented by Sharon Teague of Eugene Oregon. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church on Fulton in Stockton.
SUNDAY APL 22. EARTH DAY Festival at Oak Park in Stockton. From noon to 6pm come see the Audubon & other booths, entertainment, food, games et. al.
SATURDAY APL 23. Richardson's Bay FIELD TRIP. Visit the Audubon Societies Western Education Center, Marin Headlands & other locales. 7:30am. Steve Stocking 465-2729.
WEDNESDAY APL 25. "THE YEAR OF THE OAK" You are invited to attend the Sierra Club Program about the past present & future of the Valley Oak. Presentation by Steve Stocking, Delta College Botanist. 7:30pm Holly Cross Methodist on Hammer Lane.

Stockton Audubon Society

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Joint membership in the National Audubon Society and the Stockton Audubon Society includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to Stockton Audubon Society c/o John Schick, 940 N. Argonaut, Stockton, CA. 95203. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

___\$30 individual ___\$38 family ___\$18 student ___\$21 senior \$23 senior, family ___\$50 sustaining
___\$250 contributing ___\$500 donor ___\$1,500 life

Name: _____ Address: _____

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