



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 22 #3

Calendar



May-June '84

Sat. May 19 ANNUAL BRUNCH AND MAY MEETING. The day will start with an 8:00 AM bird walk followed by brunch at about 10:00 AM. For the brunch the board will provide coffee, tea, and juice. Each member is asked to bring a dish to share of breakfast breads, brunch main dishes, or fruit. Also bring a serving setting for you and your guests. We will have a warm grill for warming rolls and reheating main dishes, but cook your food before you bring it. Following brunch there will be a very brief election meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this event, call Nancy Greenwood (462-2724), Ann Mullin (957-3366) or Kathy Schick (464-7083).

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING FIELD TRIPS

- Sat. June 2 Butterfly Identification Field Trip. 8:30 AM. For more information & to reserve a net call Kathy at 464-7083
- Sat. June 16 FIELD TRIP TO BIG TREES STATE PARK. 7:30 AM. From Burns Tower, 2 hour drive, 2 mile walk. Call Steve 463-2459
- Sat. June 30 CASWELL STATE PARK & DURHAM FERRY PARK AREA. 7:30 at 8:30 Burns Tower, U.O.P. to carpool. Call the Welche's at 477-9618 for further information.
- July 14-15 YOSEMITE WEEKEND. Details later, but make reservations for campgrounds or lodge now !

STOCKTON AUDUBON will again sponsor "BIOLOGY BY BACKPACK" this summer. The dates will be July 11-15 & July 19-23. See page 4.

OUR CONTINUING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT WILL BE TO CARE FOR THE NATURAL AREA AT OAK GROVE REGIONAL PARK THIS SUMMER. IF YOU CAN HELP FOR A FEW HOURS ON A SATURDAY MORNING, PLEASE COME ON OUT. THE SCHEDULED DATES AND CO:ORDINATORS ARE:

- June 9 and June 23...Steve Stocking 4632459
- July 14 & July 28....Norm Smith. 474-5390/ 474-5354
- Aug 11 & Aug 25..Neil Kerr & Karl Kothe 4641004
- Sept 8 & Sept 22 K.Schick 464-7083 or Dick Filson 4668414

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS 18 and 19 AT THE JUNE 5 STATE ELECTION

Proposition 18 will provide \$370 million for local and state parks. \$25 million of this will be for wildlife conservation, \$15 million of this for wildlife management areas & \$10 million for habitat for our rare and endangered species. (Without habitat, there is no place for birds.) Proposition 19 will provide \$85 million to acquire and restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat. 90% of our state wetlands have been lost in the last 100 years.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Now that election time is here I want to say that I have really enjoyed my year of being your president. What has made the year so successful and enjoyable has been all the assistance I get from my committee chairmen and board members. Through all of their efforts we have had a great year of outstanding programs, field trips, and regular newsletters. Other behind the scene jobs have been providing refreshments at meetings, getting minutes out to board members ahead of time, and paying our bills promptly. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my officers (John Blades, Vice President, John Geer, Treasurer, and Ann Mullin, Secretary), board members (Cindy Geer, Kurt Mize, Steve Stocking, and David Yee), and hard-working chairmen (Cindy Geer, Programs; David Yee, Field Trips; Steve Stocking, Editor; Lois Davis, Membership; Kurt Mize, Conservation, Nancy Greenwood, Hospitality; and Dick Filson, Christmas Counts) for a great job, well done.

-Kathy Schick

OAK GROVE NEWS

March and April saw a bounty of wildflowers at the Oak Grove this year. Back away from the trails a whole field of lupines sprang up, and poppies and baby-blue-eyes came up in places where we never expected them. (Typically, the places where we planted pounds of poppy seeds on the trails became choked with grasses and not a flower was to be seen.) Of course, the dread milk thistles sprang up, too, but these were in fewer numbers than last year and had many vigilant volunteers and parks workers hacking away at them and, hopefully, by the end of April all but eradicating the thistles before they could flower and spread seeds. (Don't worry, the milk thistles are not native plants and that is much of the problem, there are not many checks in our oak woodland habitat on the thistles spread and destruction of all other annual plant life.)

The Nature Center at Oak Grove is still a wholly voluntary staff and maintenance situation. We need more volunteers on Saturdays to keep the center open from 11 to 3 this summer. If you can help any Saturday this summer, please call SUSAN CAINE 473-7260 (evenings). We really appreciate your help! At the center you'll see that the fish tanks are being improved while some new exhibits have been added. There is a Black-shouldered Kite (used to be called "white-tailed") watching a gopher in the front window. Inside there is a rare San Joaquin Kit Fox (road kill) in a beautiful case and a wonderful touch table with many bird's nests, owl pellets, acorn woodpecker granaries, among the variety of "touchable" exhibits. A steering committee composed of representatives of all the contributing groups will soon be deciding on a plan for growth and maintenance for the center and Stockton Audubon's representative is Karl Kothe. If you have any ideas or concerns, call him at 464-1004.

Now that the rains are ending, we will be organizing summer watering crews to help out the newer shrubs which we've planted along the trail. We've planted several new plants which will need especial care. And the Stockton Audubon Board has arranged to purchase several hundred feet of new hoses and other tools to make the job easier. So read the article on summer watering in this issue of the Hoot Owl and arrange to help out one or two days this summer. It's fun because the companionship is great and the plants will thank you.



BIRDS

We have a scattered periods of showers after a relatively dry winter. Possibly that explains the activity of birders better than it does the activity of the birds.

On January 29 Nancy G. observed a Golden Eagle over 580 near Livermore. The following, until further notice are observations of David Yee. On 2-29 on Coral Hollow Rd, 50 Tricolored Blackbirds, a Roadrunner and a "yellow-shafted" Flicker. 3-9 a Common Goldeneye & 2 Mew Gulls at Lodi Sewage Ponds, 3-10 a White-throated Sparrow at Durham Ferry Park. 3-11 at Caswell S.P., a Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler & a Rufous Hummer. 3-13 a pair of Swainson's Hawk at Oak Grove Park & a Black-headed Gull at S.S.P. (Stockton Sewer Ponds). 3-17 Found a Blue-winged Teal & a Tufted Duck at S.S.P. and on 3-19 a Caspian Tern. 3-21 both Lesser Golden Plover and Baird's Sandpiper at L.S.P. (Lodi Sewage Ponds).

On 3-24 12 Stockton Audubon members including Candy & Katherine from Tracy observed at least 50 species including nesting Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Bushtits, and Mallard Ducks in the vicinity of Durham Ferry Park. On 3-27 Mike Salladay observed a Varied Thrush in his backyard and S. Stocking observed a flock of Long-billed Curlew near Milton.

David observed a Whimbrel at Lodi Sewer Ponds on 3-27 and 100 Pine Siskin at the Oak Grove Park. 3-31 found David, 70 Lawrence's Goldfinch and one Townsend's Solitaire at Commanche Res.

Karl Kothe observed a Wilson's Warbler in his backyard on 4-5, Norm Smith located Burrowing Owls at an I-5 offramp in Sacramento on 4-8 but noted that the area had been mowed and the owls had left when he returned. Norm also observed Galinule or whatever they are called now at Middle River 4-6.

On 4-12 the Kothes reported 6 Marsh Wren and Downy Woodpeckers nesting at White Slough, and Says Phoebe, Common Merganser and more at Hogan Dam on the 19th. 4-13 Lloyd Pederson reported Pileated Woodpecker near West Point in Calaveras Co. The 4-21 Del Puerto Canyon Trip led by Neil Kerr brought out a good group of members and birds. The birds included Says Phoebe, Phainopepla, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Golden Eagle, Lewis Woodpecker Road Runner, Vaux Swift, Lincoln Sparrow and many others. S. Stocking observed a Red Breasted Nuthatch in his Stockton yard on 4-21. A Yellow-headed blackbird was observed in the Saturday Stockton Record (4-28-84) by Mike Salladay. He later located the same bird in a pond on Highway 26 near Linden. This beautiful bird was once common in San Joaquin Co. before so many marshes were drained. Sylvia Kothe observed Cara Cara, Whooping Crane, Black Skimmers and "millions" of Franklin Gulls on an April visit to the "Gulf of Texas".

4-6 the Hooded Oriole returned to the Yee residence. On 4-7 David saw Calliope Hummer, Canyon Wren and 10 Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Coral Hollow Road. On 4-9 there was a Black-chinned Hummer at Neil Kerr's residence in Ripon. Kurt Mize observed a Gray Flycatcher at Brovelli Woods on 4-8 and on 4-12 returned to observe a Warbling Vireo, a Chipping Sparrow and a Black-headed Grosbeak. David caught 2 Little Gulls at the S.S.P. on 4-15 and a Vaux Swift and a Mac Gillvrays Warbler at the Oak Grove on 4-17.

FIELD TRIPS/BIRDERS/BIRDS

March and April saw birds and birders alike come alive as spring rolled in. All field trips were well attended with the average number of participants well over 10. Thanks to all of you leaders and participants for making the trips so rewarding.

Spring migration was well on the move by the first part of April as most of the expected early arrivals were seen by then. Western Kingbirds, Northern Orioles & Caspian Terns were common. Some lingering winter birds noted were Pine Siskin and Varied Thrush. Rarities included the Gray Flycatcher at Brovelli and the many Lawrences' Goldfinches on the Valley floor. There will be more so join us soon.....David Yee.

MORE ON OUR FIELD TRIPS

- Sat. May 19. Morning field trip at Oak Grove Park before the Picnic, We often see Tanager, Grosbeak & migrating Warblers.
- Sat. June 2 Butterfly Identification Trip. Kathy Schick & Debbie Martin will take us to White Slough and other areas to net these beauties, identify them and then release them. They guarantee a fascinating & enjoyable time among these most beautiful of insects. Birds will also abound, including the Blue Grosbeak. Meet at Burn's Tower U.O.P at 8:30 Am. Call Kathy to reserve a net 464-7983.
- Sat June 16 Field Trip to South Grove, Calaveras Big Trees. Steve Stocking will again lead us on this annual favorite. This time we will also visit the South Grove where we expect Pileated and White-headed Woodpeckers. Evening Grosbeak, W. Tanager and many others are expected. The mountain wildflowers including azalea will be in full bloom. Don't miss this one. Meet at Burn's Tower, U.O.P. at 7:30 am for the 2 hour drive to Beaver Creek Picnic area where we will start our walk about 10:00. It's about 2½ miles round trip so bring walking shoes and a lunch to carry. Call Steve at 463-2459
- Sat June 30 Field Trip to Caswell State Park & Durham Ferry Park area. The Stanislaus and S.J. Rivers come together in this area and create some of the finest riparian habitat remaining in the county. George and Lockey Welch visit these areas regularly and will show us some of their nesting specialties including Red-shouldered Hawk, California Thrasher, Bushtit, and possibly Lazuli Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. Two years ago Yellow-billed Cuckoo was even found in the area. Meet the Welches at Burn's Tower at 7:30 to carpool. 477-9618.
- July 14-15 Yosemite weekend. (call David Yee for more information)

BIOLOGY BY BACKPACK

The Stockton Audubon Society will again sponsor an ecology workshop for high school students this summer. The workshop is called "Biology by Backpack". The course is offered through St. Mary's High School and will carry five credits toward graduation transferrable to any high school. The course will consist of five days backpacking into the Sierra where students will study biology and field ecology. Emphasis will be on the impact of human activities on wilderness ecosystems. Other topics of study will include astronomy, geology, and meteorology. Backpacking, and other outdoor living skills will be covered. There will be two separate workshops, July 11-15 and July 19-23. Both male and female students who will be in grades 9-12 in September 1982 are eligible to apply. Enrollment is limited to 14 per course. The cost is a bargain \$110 which includes the use of all backpacking equipment, food, books, transportation, and special clothing. For information and applications contact Richard Filson of the Stockton Audubon Education Committee at 466-8414.

STOCKTON AUDUBON AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

At our April Board meeting the officers of Stockton Audubon took action to award a \$250 scholarship to Phil Kahler. Phil is a member of Stockton Audubon from Tracy who is attending Delta College this semester and working part-time for San Joaquin County Parks & Recreation. Last year Phil participated in the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute and plans to again this summer. The classroom is wild America-

(cont) studying environmental education, and offers college degrees both graduate and undergraduate. Phil is raising some of his tuition and we are supporting his participation in this "Audubon University on wheels".

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD 1984-1985

The following nominations have been submitted by the nominations committee:

Board Members:

- President - Kathy Schick
 - Vice President - Kurt Mize
 - Secretary - Ann Mullin
 - Treasurer - John Geer
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- Cindy Geer
 - Steve Stocking
 - Bob Phillips
 - George Welch

Further nominations may be made at the time of the elections, May 19th.

MORE ON PROPOSITIONS 18 & 19 ON THE JUNE 1984 BALLOT

National Audubon is supporting both of these measures which will appear on the June 5th California primary ballot.

Proposition 19 would provide the protection for wetlands which give essential food and shelter to many irreplaceable species of birds, fish and other wildlife. During the past century, California has lost 90% of our wetland areas. If some state action is not forthcoming, it will be catastrophic for California fish and wildlife.

Proposition 19 is the only bond measure specifically designed to protect these vital ecological breeding grounds and represents perhaps the greatest opportunity for us to protect our fish and wildlife. Please join all of the major environmental organizations and commercial and sport fishermen in California in voting YES ON 19 on June 5.

Contributions are needed to educate voters about the importance of this measure. Please send your donations to the YES ON 19 Committee, 1228 N Street Suite 33, Sacramento California 95814.

Proposition 18 on the June 5 California primary election ballot will provide \$370 million for local and state parks. With the demand for outdoor recreation facilities becoming greater--especially in urban areas--many people are being turned away from overcrowded and over-used recreation facilities. And each year it becomes more difficult for local governments to find budget funds necessary to maintain and improve our parks. A YES vote on Proposition 18 will solve these problems by allowing recreation agencies to meet this increasing demand with development of recreational facilities where they are most needed.

TRAVELS WITH FARLEY/Phil Frank

