



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 26 #3

Calendar



May-June 1988

BOARD MEETING; Stockton Audubon Board at the home of Vic Wycoff: 7:30pm Call 477-0376. May 10: Tue.

STOCKTON AUDUBON PICNIC AND MEETING. Saturday May 14 will be our annual picnic at the Willow Picnic Area of the Oak Grove Park on 8 Mile Road. A bird walk at 8:30 will be followed by a pot-luck brunch at 10:00 and short meeting. Bring your own table service and a favorite dish to share. Drinks provided by Audubon. Say thanks to your old officers and welcome the new! Grove, Stanislaus Overlooks, and have a picnic at the Beaver Creek area. Short walks only. Carpool to share gas and entrance fee. Call Steve Stocking 465-2729.

FIELD TRIP; SUNDAY June 5. BOLINAS LAGOON/ PT REYES. This can be one of the best times of the year here. Joshua Horner & Kim Platti will lead to the Audubon Canyon Ranch where egrets will be engaged in nuptial rites, PRBO's birdbanding station at Palomarin where mist netting will be observed & the Bolinas Lagoon. After this we will drive to the Point to search for Puffins & spring vagrants. Meet at Burns Tower UOP at 7:00. Bring a lunch and dress for all weather conditions.

For further information call 465-6188 or 478-7860.
BIRDING CENSUS; Volunteers are needed to help census this new Nature Conservancy Preserve: Cosumnes River. Call John Schick if you can help out one morning or more. 464-7083. To be June 11, July 9 and August 13.

FIELD TRIP. Sat June 18. ELECTRA ROAD/ MOKELUMNE RIVER. This rich riparian area near Jackson has a nice group of breeding birds. Expect orioles,, grousebeaks, yellow warblers, tanagers, spotted sandpipers, common mergansers, golden eagle, prairie falcon. We will adjourn after a picnic lunch. Meet leader David Yee at 7:00 at Bruener's parking lot. 951-1526,466-3337.

YES ON PROPOSITION 70

The California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Bond Act will preserve California's magnificent wildlife habitat, coast, parks and open space lands. We need to act now to preserve critical habitat for birds, wildlife and people throughout California.

VOTE YES ON PROP 70 ON JUNE 7.

STOCKTON AUDUBON SPONSORS DAVID BROWER TALK

Too late for publication in the last Hoot Owl, the board of Stockton Audubon Society agreed to co-sponsor with the Sierra Club and others the David Brower lecture March 16th at the annual meeting of the United National Association. At least six Audubon members were present for his speech.

Brower entitled his talk "Trend is NOT Destiny" and he recounted some of the greatest current environmental problems we face and our trends of the past, merely worsening them. He spoke through apt quotations for each problem beginning with conserving the ozone barrier and working all the way to maintaining biodiversity.

Brower's talk was enlightening for many of the audience who had not previously contemplated such topics as the problems dealing with nuclear waste disposal and the permanent destruction of tropical rainforest. His major suggestion for solutions was for all of us to "live lightly" and not to hang onto our tax deductions! He is proud that as first executive director of the Sierra Club, he lost them their tax exempt status in the '60s. He feels that freeing the Sierra Club to become more involved in politics has gained it a great deal of political clout in the past twenty years.

We can be proud that Audubon co-sponsored Brower's talk in Stockton. It reached a large audience who may not have been aware that currently Americans (a scant 5% of the people on Earth) use 50% of the world's squandered resources each year. He explained the concept of "live lightly"---voluntarily lowering our standard of living, slightly---more in line with what the rest of the peoples of the world experience.

<Kathy Schick>

THANKS TO TERRY RONNEBERG FOR COMPUTERIZING OUR MAILING LIST!

MICKE GROVE ZOO A.D.O.P.T PROGRAM

The Zoo is celebrating spring by holding a special A.D.O.P.T. campaign during the months of April, May and June.

Persons who adopt animals during these months will receive a year's worth of Paw Prints, the Zoo's newsletter. Also, new adoptive parent's names will be entered in a drawing, making them eligible to win a 18X25 Micke Grove Zoo Poster. All animals will remain at the Zoo, but visitation is strongly encouraged.

Call 331-7220 or 953-8840.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE FIELD CAMPUS

Offerings include Behavior of Birds, June 6-10 by Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences, and Birds of the Northern Sierra, June 13-17 by Dave Shuford of the P>R>B>O> Many other offerings will follow through the summer, biology, geology, astronomy, anthropology and education. For further information please write to Sierra Nevada Field Campus, School of Science, 1600 Holloway Ave. S.F. CA. 94132-9987.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE BIRDIES

The pesticide diazinon has been banned for use on golf courses and sod farms. There have been at least 60 kills of waterfowl, songbirds, and wading birds in such areas. We expect to see an increase of birdies and even eagles on these courses.

Regretably the use of diazinon will continue on vegetables, fruits, nuts, and on residential lawns.

APPROPRIATIONS NEEDED TO PRESERVE HOPE VALLEY

Hope Valley, just east of Carson Pass, has some of the Sierra Nevada's most beautiful meadows and scenery. Unfortunately, most of the valley is privately owned and open to developemnt which would destroy its beauty. Only public ownership will keep it undeveloped.

An opportunity to purchase large acreage in Hope Valley will be lost if Congress does not appropriate \$5,000,000 this year. A decision on this appropriation is imminent; Congressman Shumway's support for this appropriation in his district is very important. Please write to him immediately on this issue. (House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515) Or you can call his local office, check the phone book.

U.C RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM

This program offers many opportunities to assist research teams in the natural and social sciences. Programs this next summer include Alaskan Sea Birds, Spinner Dolphins of Lana'i, Wildlife in Patagonia and Pliocene Mammals of Tanzania. For further information call UREP at (415)642-6586.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STOCKTON AUDUBON BYLAWS; ARTICLE III ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of this corporation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be an exofficio member of the Board of Directors, and four additional members of the Board of Directors.

(We propose to amend the four to five additional board members, making the total voting board nine and retaining a quorum at five. We will vote on this at the May 14 election meeting following the picnic.)

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to our Past President Dick Filson who led his team of science students from Edison High School to the First Place finish in the second year of this state-wide competition! The team is now preparing for the national competition and is earning money for the trip to Dover Delaware.

SERVICE PROJECT; WATERING AT THE OAK GROVE

Dates for this summer will be May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, Aug. 21 and Sept. 17th. We will be planting some new native plants on October 15th. Call Karl Kothe at 464-1004 for additional information. The waterings take six persons about two hours, from 8:30 to about 11. Help the plants grow, provide habitat for the birds!

SUMMER SESSION; DELTA COLLEGE

Natural History of Central California, Biology 10, a short four week class will be offered from August 1 through August 25. 3 units of transferable lecture credit. The class will be held from 8 to 11 am, 4 days a week plus an all day field trip. Call instructor Steve Stocking for further information 465-2729.

MONO LAKE NEEDS YOUR LETTERS IN JUNE 1988

The Forest Service plans to release for public review in early June its draft management plan for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. In this plan the Forest Service WILL identify a "preferred" lake level needed to protect Mono's scenic and ecological resources.

Write a letter to praise the Forest Service for their decision to specify a preferred level for Mono Lake. Ask for a copy of the draft Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area management plan. Send to: Mr. Dennis Martin, Inyo Forest Supervisor

United States Forest Service
873 N> Main St, Bishop Ca. 93514

BIRDING TOUR OF KENYA

All the "hot spots". Led by Don Starks, a San Jose birder with extensive experience in Arizona. First week of August. For details call him at (408) 371-9720. 2076 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose Ca. 95124.



COOPERATION AMONG HUNTING HAWKS

Harris' Hawks cooperate as they go after their prey, most often cottontails and jackrabbits. The bigger the hunting party (parties of 2-6 observed) the greater its success and the more food that became available for use. Science 3-25-88.

PREVENTING BIRD COLLISIONS

A Swiss inventor has received a patent on a flashlight like device which would flash rapidly from airplanes. The frequency of flashes would increase to scare the birds. For further information refer to Pat # 4,736,907.

10 WAYS TO AVOID WATER WASTE

- (1) DO NOT OVER-WATER PLANTS AND LAWNS. Avoid water runoff into streets and gutters.
- (2) FOR BEST RESULTS TRY MORNING WATERING. Evaporation loss at a minimum.
- (3) AVOID WASHING DOWN PAVED AREAS: Sweep driveways and sidewalks in garden cleanup.
- (4) WHEN WASHING THE CAR Use bucket of water, hose off only to rinse.
- (5) REPAIR FAUCET LEAKS. As much as 15 gallons of water can be lost each day with a slow drip.
- (6) AVOID TOILET WATER WASTE. Do not use toilet as a trash disposal.
- (7) DON'T FALL ASLEEP IN THE SHOWER An extra 5 minutes in the shower could mean another 50 gallons down the drain. Use a moderate stream.
- (8) THE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER; USE WISELY: Half loads waste water.
- (9) WATCH THOSE LAUNDRY LOADS TOO: With 50 gallons per load, make every load count.
- (10) AVOID THE 'RUNNING FAUCET' Don't run water continuously while shaving, brushing teeth, peeling vegetables etc.



Weekend Wildflowers

June 25-26 — \$45 Leader: Stephen Stocking
This field session will study the wildflowers of plant communities of the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park. Participants will be guided on easy nature walks to meadows, ridges, streamside, forests and sequoia groves. The recommended text is *A Sierra Nevada Flora* by Weeden or *Sierra Flower Finder* by Keator.

STEPHEN STOCKING is an instructor of biology-botany at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California. He is the author of *Wildflowers of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks*.

Please return this form and make checks payable to the:

Sequoia Natural History Assoc.
Ash Mountain, Box 10
Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209) 565-3341, Ext. 234

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge to my credit card

Visa No. _____

Expiration: _____

Minor (under 18 years)

Master Card No. _____

Expiration: _____



1988 WESTERN AUDUBON PRIORITIES

The boards of the western chapters of Audubon recently democratically chose the following as the top 5 priorities for the western region of Audubon.

- (1) Wetland and riparian habitat protection
- (2) Old growth forest protection
- (3) International programs for wildlife and habitat
- (4) Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act/ Acid Rain
- (5) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Protection

"LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER"

Just when you forget about them, Fish and Game wardens always seem to show up. That was the case for Ed Barnes, Martin Montgomery and Larry Kunau of Red Bluff. They had 77 geese in the back of the pickup truck when Lt. Terry Hodges arrived and arrested them. The limit is 3.

BIRDS



All sightings are by David Yee unless another observer is mentioned. LL is Lodi Lake, LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds, & SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds. OGP is Oak Grove Park. Please send in your OBSERVATIONS to the editor.

2-13 Betty MacNear observed pr of Gt.Horned Owl at Isleton, 2 Gt.Blue Heron rookeries at Kimball Island and Suisun Slough, and many Bl Sh Kites, Am. and Snowy Egrets in the Delta. 2-13 Ron Limbaugh observed many birds on the Sonoma coast area including red-faced Cormorants, Ch-backed Chickadee, Burrow's and Common Goldeneye, Red-br. Merganser and Harliquin Duck. 2-19 A blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 25 Varied Thrush, a single Solitary Vireo, a White-th Sparrow all at LL. On the same day the Little Gull was back at the SSP. 2-20 , 2 Horned Grebe were at Quail Lake, 2 "Slate-colored" Juncos at Stockton Rural Cemetary and a Red-breasted x Red-napped Sapsucker hybrid was on Fremont Street. The following were at Empire Tract the same day, a Common Loon, 3 Red-th Loon, 2 Clark's Grebe, a Eurasian Wigeon, 5 Swainson's Hawk, 150 Red-tailed Hawk, 3 Rough-legged Hawk and 125 Mew Gull. 2-25 found 70 White Pelican at SSP, 2-26 a Rough-winged Swallow (1st) over Stockton, on 2-29 a Barn Swallow (1st) over the LSP. On 3-1 MObs observed at least 31 G. Egrets in a field on 8 Mile Road near Hammer. 3-3 there were 3 Golden-crowned Kinglet in Louis Park, Stockton and 3 White-th Swift over Stockton. 3-5 found a Costa's Hummer at Corral Hollow Road and 10 Rufous Hummers (1st) at Corral Hollow Road.

On March 6 many species (67) were observed by many observers (MO) 25 on our tour of foothill lakes and ponds. Included were Bufflehead, Wood Duck, Hooded and Common Merganser, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Bald Eagles, 26 mud turtles, a cottontail, a skunk, deer and the largest bullfrog ever seen in those parts.

3-7 a Red Head at SSP, 3-9 a pair of Swainson's Hawk return to Oak Grove Park to nest again this year. 3-25 a Caspian Tern (1st) at SSP. 3-26 3 Western Kingbird (1st) and 2 "Bullock's" Oriole at Corral Hollow Road. 3-28 an Osprey and a Long-eared Owl at LL by Dan Gifford. 4-1 Yee and Stocking observe a Swainsons nesting off 580 near Tracy and a Coopers Hawk at Carnigae. 4-2 The Stockings and Harpers observe Band-tailed Pigeons, a Wood Duck and W. B. Nuthatch at Murphys, Calaveras Co. 4-5 a Wilson's Phalarope and a Thayer's Gull at SSP, 4-6 a Black-th Gray Warbler (1st) at LL. 4-7 a Townsends Warbler (1st), and 6 Red Crossbills at the Stockton Rural Cemetary. 4-8 a solitary Warbling Vireo at Louis Park. 4-9 found the following at LL. a Hammond's Flycatcher, 3 Solitary Vireo, a Hutton's Vireo, 4 Nashville Warbler, 10 Mrytle Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler., and 2 Pine Siskin. On the same day there was a Pergrine Falcon, a Yellow-headed Blackbird and 3 Whimbrel (1st) at LSP. 4-9 a Common Loon was seen on Tomales Creek by S Stocking & Delta College students. 4-11 a Black-h Grosbeak and a Chipping Sparrow at LL. 4-13 a Bl-chinned Sparrow and a Hooded Oriole at LL. 4-14 . 13 Cattle Egret seen on Brookside Rd by Sue Yee. 4-15 3 Db-cr Cormorants over Delta College by S. K. Stocking, 4-16 numerous Cliff Swallow over OGP. 4-16 2 Calliope Hummer, an Ash-th Flycatcher, 2 Violet-green Swallow, a Phainopepla all at Corral Hollow Road. 4-18 found 2 Short-billed Dowitcher at SSP, 4-20 there were 4 Western Flycatchers at LL and on 4-21 a Band-tailed Pigeon at Oak Grove Park.

4-23 Stockton Audubon Lodi Lake Field Trip Highlights: 2 Black-th Gray Warblers, 4 Townsend's Warblers, 2 Hermit Warblers, 4 Wilson's Warblers.

LATE BREAKING ITEM : (Item was misplaced by your editor). 5 Prairie Falcon were observed at Del Puerto Canyon by Neil Kerr on 7-18-87 !

GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

Various chapters of California Audubon sponsor three, one-week Golden Trout Workshops to be held from July 31 through August 20. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists will be offered. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, east side at 10,000 ft. For details and reservations write or call Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane Redlands, Ca 92373, 714 793-7897.

