



# THE HOOT OWL

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 1990

VOL. 28 #3

## SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD ELECTION. 1990-1991.

The following have been nominated to the Board of the San Joaquin Audubon Society.

John Blades.....President  
John Schick.....Vice President  
Jim Rowth.....Treasurer  
Nancy Ballot.....Secretary

and the following Board Members:

Jeff Ryan Steve Stocking Staci LaVergne  
Dave Wagner Victor Wykoff

If there are no other nominations, these persons will be elected as the new officers of the San Joaquin Audubon Society at our May picnic brunch meeting. The nominations committee was composed of past pre. sidents David Yee, Kathy Schick and Steve Stocking. Further "off board" officers will be chosen by the new board.

## SWAINSON'S HAWK

All of San Joaquin County is being surveyed for Swainson's Hawks. The Swainson's hawk is a Threatened Species in California. The open farmland of San Joaquin County constitutes the true core and the very heart of Swainson's hawk habitat in the state. It is important that anyone who is concerned about endangered species participate in this survey. Reports of all sightings will be useful informations. Please send all information including time and location to Waldo Holt, 462-4438. This survey should lead to having areas for conservation set aside and to the establishment of mitigation fee ordinances.

Waldo Holt, 462-4438

## NATIONAL ELECTION

If you wish to participate in the election being held to choose the Western Region Audubon Board member for the National Audubon Soc. Board of Directors, read on!. There are two candidates for this important post, Robert Grant the incumbent, from the Seattle Chapter and George Ellman from the Madrone (Santa Rosa) Chapter. If you would like to know more about either candidate, or if you wish to state a preference for one or the other candidate, please inform your editor at 465-2729 or call any other office during May. For a great while there were none of these "grass roots" members on the Board of National Audubon. We should support this, more democratic, election process

## THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING ONE'S NEIGHBORS.

Biologists have long known that female red-winged blackbirds choose their mates based on the territory the male controls. However, it now appears that a blackbird's familiarity with its neighbors also affects mating. Gordon Orions and Les Beletsky of the University of Washington have used their observations to postulate a "familiar neighbor hypothesis" that suggests neighbors are important for breeding in blackbirds. Specifically, they have shown that female blackbirds with familiar neighbors gathered larger harems and produced more offspring than did birds surrounded by strangers.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, October 19



HELP CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL OF SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK OR THE 50th BIRTHDAY OF KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK BY TAKING A SEMINAR IN ONE OF THESE PRIME AREAS.

"Cedar Grove Potpourri" June 9-10. On the Kings River. \$45,

"Weekend Wildflowers II" June 23-24 At beautiful Grant Grove \$45.

"Sequoia Forest Ecology" July 7-8. Camp near these giants. \$45.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR FOR A BROCHURE ON THE COMPLETE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSN. PROGRAM CONTACT STEVE STOCKING AT 465-2729. Leave a message.



## AUDUBON ADVENTURE FUNDING

The GRUPE FOUNDATION FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION has funded our Audubon Adventure programs for 14 classrooms in our county. This supplements the Society's own funding of 10 classroom programs. Thanks to the self starting efforts of Susan Smith, President of the Foundation, teachers and students at the following schools will benefit greatly from stimulating information about the environment, ecology and our natural world. Audubon Adventures classroom packages are particularly suitable for 5th and 6th graders. Thanks Susan and thanks Grupe Foundation for this meaningful outreach...our children are our future!

TEACHER/PRINCIPAL	SCHOOL.....TOWN
Marlene Van Berg	Glenwood, Linden
Charlin Hulsman	Linden, Linden
Cindy Yamoto	Waverly, Linden
Jackie Korbhol	Claudia Landeen, Lincoln
Pat Mourey	Claudia Landeen, Lincoln
Mrs Scornaienchi	Jefferson Tracy
Mr McMasters	Jefferson Tracy
Bill Lina	J.R.Williams Stockton
Cecelia Moran	Taylor Stockton
Jill Kipp	Creekside Lodi

We hope to work with other groups and individuals to spread this valuable program to even more classrooms.

Victor Wykoff 477-0376

## NATURAL REGENERATION; WILDLIFE, FIRE AND HUMAN INFLUENCE ON OAKS

Natural regeneration of oaks is the process of replacing individuals from the population that die. New oaks arise in two ways, from acorns or as sprouts from stumps. Young oaks pass through several distinct stages and each successive stage is associated with an increased likelihood of survival. Sprouting is common for all oak seedlings and saplings, but less reliable as trees age. Although mature evergreen oaks and black oaks sprout vigorously, in general, older white (valley) oaks do not sprout.

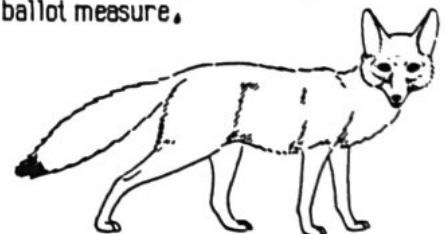
Statewide, these valley and blue oaks appear to be declining, although good examples of natural regeneration of both species do exist. A number of explanations have been used to explain regeneration problems. Increased seedling mortality may be due to 1) overgrazing and trampling by livestock, 2) competition between introduced annual plants and oak seedlings for limited soil moisture, 3) changes in wildlife populations, including loss of top predators and increases in small rodents, 4) a lower water table due to withdrawal, or 5) an impenetrable, subsoil hardpan due to compaction by livestock. In addition, natural patterns of regeneration may have been altered by 6) fire suppression practices. On the other hand, some researchers think that oak woodlands are fully stocked or overstocked and natural regeneration is not a problem.

However, no single theory can be expected to fully explain the regeneration of a group of plants as diverse as California's oaks. Oak regeneration appears to be highly site specific, and the result of the intersection of favorable climatic, soil, ecological, and management factors. In order to maintain the value of our diminishing and declining oak habitats with their tremendous wildlife values and biodiversity, we can focus our attention on complementary land use and sustainable land management practices, which allow natural regeneration to occur.

Pam Muick, U.C.Berkeley, Dept. Forestry

## TRACY GROWTH

If you are interested in the issues of growth in the rapidly expanding Tracy area, contact San Joaquin Audubon Board member, Terry Ronneberg at 835-7847. "Things are being planned.", like a ballot measure.



KIT FOX

## BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

I saw a Black-shouldered Kite flying toward its nest in the top of a big oak tree. It was carrying a mouse in its talons. A second kite intercepted. As the hunter hovered, with typical soft rapid wing-beats and outspread tail, the second kite rolled over and took the mouse, then carried it to the nest where "she" (probably female) gave it to her young. This most beautiful hawk is friendly, and so it is almost extinct". This is a quote from Gayle Pickwell's beautiful and perceptive book called "Birds", 1939. And further along in his book he wrote the following under the heading, "Death of a White-tailed Kite." What's this funny looking bird the hunter asked as he pulled the limp and lifeless mass of feathers out of a hunting pouch to show the rancher. The rancher was deeply hurt and immensely angry. The kite was his, he had come to love it. He soon found words, strong words, harsh words. But the kite was dead."

In 1927, Ralph Hoffman, in "Birds of the Pacific States", estimated that there were not over 50 pairs of kites in California. In 1939, Gayle Pickwell estimated, over 25 pairs. Now there are many, thanks to large extent to this kind of feeling toward hawks. It was rare among farmers (not to mention hunters) then, but is much more common now. It is also indicative of a kind of compassion that is spreading today, and that could "save our hides", i.e. **Love** and appreciation of nature. And, fortunately we are part of nature. (by Tom Rogers, from the Altacal Audubon newsletter the "White-tailed Kite")

## SAVE YOUR EGGSHELLS FOR YOUR BIRDS

Don't throw your kitchen eggshells away, especially this time of year! Crushed eggshell provides motherbirds and nestlings with essential calcium for their own shells and bones during nesting season. And like grit, it also helps with digestion.

Putting out eggshell can help attract purple martins to a new house—it's like a welcome sign. Jays also crave calcium and your supplying eggshell can keep them from robbing other birds' nests to satisfy that craving. You'll find that most of your backyard birds will love this treat.

We suggest that you save your shells from normal kitchen use and store in a ziplock bag in the refrigerator until needed. Crush into small pieces and air dry for a few hours.

You can mix the eggshell with seed for most birds except the non-seed eaters. Enjoy nesting season even more with this easy way of providing calcium to your backyard birds.

(From April 1990 Duncraft Flyer)

# BIRDS:



Except as noted, the following sightings are by David Yee. Mar. 2, a Band t. Pigeon and a Wh-th Sparrow at Stockton Rural Cemetary. Mar. 3, 10 Or-cr. Warbler at LL., a Bendire's Thrasher at Acampo, 1500 Green-w. Teal at Woodbridge Road and 240 C. Snipe at LSP, these by David and Waldo Holt. George Welch observed at Wh-th Sparrow on Mar 3. Mar. 4 five V.gr Swallow at Shelton Rd. Mar. 5 a Barn Swallow at SSP., Mar 6 a Merlin, 8 Pine Siskin, & 5 Lawrence's Goldfinch at CH. Mar. 9, 90 Ring-n. Duck near SSP. Mar. 13, a Blue-w. Teal at Woodbridge Road, Mar. 15 a Blk-th Gray Warbler & a Townsend's Warbler at Louis Park. Mar. 16 3 W. Grebe at SSP. Mar. 18 a Cassin's Kingbird at Hwy 132 and I-5. Mar. 29, 6 Blue-gray Gnat-catchers and a Hooded Oriole at LL. Mar 30 a Clark's Grebe at SSP and a "Bullock's" Oriole at White Slough. Mar. 31. Stocking noted Cedar Waxwings, Nuttall's Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, and 6 other common species above his Stockton backyard. Mar 31 Dennis & Valerie Smith observed White-faced Ibis, W. Pelicans, C. Moorhen and many types of ducks at the San Luis Wildlife Refuge. Apr. 2 found a single Solitary Vireo at LL. Apr. 5 a Blk-ch. Hummer and a Wilson's Warbler at Lodi Lake, Apr. 7, 6 (six) Calliope Hummer, 30 Rufous Hummers and a Blk.-h Grosbeak at CH. also a Whimbrel at Tracy Sewer Ponds. On Apr. 10 R. Chambers observed many Tri-colored Blackbirds just north of Valley Springs. On April 14, in the company of Waldo Holt, David observed, an Osprey, a Calliope Hummer, a Hammond's Flycatcher, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, an Ash-th Flycatcher, 5 Warbling Vireo, a MacGillivray's Warbler, 3 Nashville Warblers, and a Lazuli Bunting all at Lodi Lake. A Willet and a Sh-b. Dowitcher at LSP and a Bald Eagle over the Oak Grove. 4-14 John Schick reported 720 birds of 74 species at the Cosumnes Preserve with the highlight being 20 Dunlin in breeding plumage. Also on 4-14 Dennis and Valerie Smith report the Cedar Waxwings in Stockton. LSP=Lodi Sewage Ponds, LL=Lodi Lake CH=Corral Hollow SSP=Sktn.Sewage Ponds

## SIERRA NEVADA FIELD CAMPUS

If you are interested in credit field classes on the north fork of the Feather River this summer contact Jim Steele at the School of Science, S.F.State Univ. 415 338-1571 or 759-0970. Classes include Birds of the Sierra Nevada, Bird Identification by Song, and Sierran Bird-In-The-Hand Workshop.

## MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

**SATURDAY MAY 12. COSUMNES PRESERVE MONTHLY BIRD CENSUS.** Call John Schick at 464-7083. This is both a valuable service & a way to practice bird identification.

**SATURDAY MAY 19. LODI LAKE FIELD TRIP.** The hot-spot in the county to witness spring migrants. Meet leader Kurt Mize at the end of Laurel St. off Turner Rd. at 7:30. 957-0676.

**SATURDAY JUN 2. SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY PICNIC AT OAK GROVE REGIONAL PARK.** There will be a leisurely bird walk at 8:15 led by Waldo Holt. Following this there will be a short business meeting about 10:00 at which the new slate of officers will be presented for election. At the conclusion of the meeting we will have our wonderful brunch provided by those in attendance. Please bring you own, reusable, service (if you MUST use throwaways please be suitably contrite) and a dish to share with others. Audubon will provide hot water for coffee or tea but there are no outlets at the Garden Picnic Area, use main park entrance, turn to left to behind the park buildings. For information call Nancy Greenwood, at 462-2724.

**SUNDAY JUN 3. BIG TREES STATE PARK FIELD TRIP.** Leisurely walks through the Giant Forest Grove and other habitat in the mixed evergreen forest when many birds will be nesting. Wildflowers should also be at their peak. Meet at 236 W. Knoles in Sktn. at 7:30am. (Clements about 8:30) For more information call Steve Stocking 465-2729.

**SUNDAY JUNE 10 COSUMNES PRESERVE MONTHLY BIRD CENSUS.** J. SCHICK: 464-7083.

**TUE. JUN. 12. S.J. Audubon Board Meeting.** At the home of John Blades, 473-7073.

**SAT JUN 23. ELECTRA ROAD FIELD TRIP.** One of our favorites along the upper Mokelumne River above Jackson. Many riparian nesting species. Meet Waldo Holt at Breuner's parking lot at Hammer & Lower Sacramento at 6:30am to car pool. 462-4438.

## Stockton Audubon Society

### **Officers**

President: Victor Wykoff  
477-0376

Vice President: John  
Blades 473-7073

Secretary: Terry  
Ronneberg 835-7847

Treasurer: Nancy Ballot  
465-9461

### **Board members:**

Jeff Ryan  
Steve Stocking  
George Welch  
John Schick 464-7083  
Joshua Horner 474-0175

### **Chairmen:**

Editor: Steve Stocking  
Program: George Welch  
Field Trips: David Yee  
Conservation: Waldo Holt  
Membership: John Schick  
Historian: Staci Lavergne  
Education: Jean Gaia &  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Hospitality: Nancy  
Greenwood

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: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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