



THE HOOT OWL

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STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 22 #6

Calendar



Nov-Dec 1984

Saturday November 3 Field Trip to Oak Grove Regional Park & Vicinity
This park is one of the last large stands of oaks in our area. It has especially rewarding birding at this time of year. The trip should be helpful to those persons who are planning to join us on our Christmas Bird Count this year. Meet George Welch (477-9618) at the Park entrance at 8:00am.

Saturday November 10 Planting Day at Oak Grove Regional Park.
Help to plant some oaks and other plants in the Yokuts Nature Trail area. The time will be from 8:30 to 11:30 for this Stockton Audubon conservation project. Call Steve Stocking, 463-2459.

Tuesday November 13. AUSTRALIA AND NEW GUINEA. Don Robertson will share his slides of a two month trip which included underwater on the Great Barrier Reef. 7:30, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave. Come and bring a friend.

Sunday November 18 Field Trip to Our Foothill Reservoirs.
We will look for eagles, Red Shouldered and other hawks, waterfowl including Hooded Merganser, Phainopepla during this relaxed practice for the Bellota Bird Count. We will visit Commanche, Hogan, Pardee, and Salt Springs Reservoirs as well as some smaller impoundments. Bring a sack lunch and we will enjoy a picnic before we return to the valley. Call leader Steve Stocking for more information, 463-2459 or take a chance and meet him at U.O.P. Tower at 8:00am.

Saturday December 1 Field Trip to Merced National Wildlife Refuge.
Join Robby Bacon on a visit to one of the most productive refuges in the San Joaquin Valley. Robby is a resident of Merced and visits the area regularly. In addition to the many raptors, cranes and geese (including the Ross') that should be seen, Robby has a propensity for finding real rarities in the area such as ruffs, fulvous whistling duck and swamp sparrow. Meet at Burn's Tower at U.O.P. to carpool on over. Any questions call David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337.

Tuesday December 11 BIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP to be presented by Dick Filson and David Yee. This will prepare those participating in the upcoming bird counts. Slides, helpful in identification of local birds will be presented by our two Christmas Count chirmen. The meeting will be at Central United Methodist Church at 7:30pm.

Saturday December 15 Stockton Christmas Bird Count. Dick Filson chair, call him at 466-8414 for more information or to sign up.

Saturday December 29 Wallace-Bellota Bird Count. David Yee chair, for more information or to sign up call him at 951-1526 or 466-3337.

These are eight hour activities with a short break for lunch. We...pg 2..

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's time to start planning to join in our annual Christmas Bird Counts this year. Censusing the birds between the last two weeks in December and the first week in January has been a great tradition and provided reliable statistics on bird populations for the past several decades. This time of year it seems that even our inactive members come out to help and sometimes the dinner afterward, by the roaring fireplace seems like an Audubon "family reunion." Even beginning birders are needed, so you are more than welcome to join us whatever your level of experience. The dates for the two bird counts are listed in the Calendar on the front page. More information on what to bring (such as warm clothing and lunch) can be found in the article on Christmas Bird Counts elsewhere in this Hoot Owl. If you can join us for one or both counts, either sign the Christmas Count sign-up sheet at the November or December general meetings or call David Yee (951-1526) or Dick Filson (466-8414). See you there!

- Kathy Schick

OAK GROVE NEWS

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the summer watering this year at the Oak Grove. With all your help, and without very many meadow voles this year, most of the young native shrubs which were planted in the past few years survived the hot summer. In a few more years, as their root systems go deeper, we won't need to worry about summer watering. We were pleased to see that a few of the young oak trees which were located and staked last spring, and watered all summer, appear to have survived.

The Verna Johnston Bird Oasis (watering pond for birds along the Yokuts Trail) was vandalized during the summer. However, the parks maintenance crew has replaced the water valve and once the new pump gets put in (some time this winter) the Bird Oasis should work as it was designed to, with continuously fresh water for the birds.

This is a good time of year to bird at the Oak Grove, no leaves to hide the little peeps from view. See you there.

ACTIVITIES (Continued from page 1)

...need your help to record and flush birds from the bush even if you aren't an expert. We promise good company and you are sure to learn a lot about birds, birding and birders.

This activity helps to compile "base-line" information about the type and number of birds found in a specific area at a given time year after year. There is no other way to conduct such a wide-ranging bird census. Valuable information on changes in bird abundance can be gathered in this manner.

We meet after for a buffet dinner and to compile our results.

Wednesday January 9. Stockton Audubon Board Meeting at the home of George and Locke Welch. 8147 Heather Drive. 477-9618.

January 26 and 27. SECOND CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM Mayor Tom Bradley will address this meeting which is designed to plan environmental legislation. The cost is \$50 including three meals. Reservations must be in by January 11 to Planning & Conservation League, 1228 N Street, Suite 33, Sacramento, CA 95814. Call 916-444-8726.

COLORED PRINTS OF "CALIFORNIA QUAIL"

Member of Stockton Audubon, Ingrid Irelan, has just finished a limited edition fine art print. This is the first in a series of collectible wildlife art prints. Orders should be sent in early to insure delivery before Christmas.

Ingrid would like to invite all members to send for the free color brochure depicting the California Quail.

Write to: Ingrid Irelan
P.O. Box 534
Lodi, Ca. 95241

CARNEGIE NEW TOWN SCHEDULED FOR HEARINGS

The New Town of Carnegie, a proposed 6,000 acre 35,000 resident community planned for the foothills near Tracy, and opposed by the Farm Bureau, Cattlemens' Association, Woolgrowers and Sierra Club last year, is again before the Board of Supervisors. This area supports at least six known dens of the endangered Kit Fox. Kit Fox can not survive in intensively developed areas. The development is being supported by some as a way to get urban development off of valley agricultural land. But most of the intensive development of this area would be on the relatively flat lands near the freeway and canals south-west of Tracy.

The hearing is scheduled for November 29, 1984. To help oppose the project contact Mark V. Connolly at (209) 943-7864.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM

A member of Stockton Audubon, Lorraine Hebert, spent her vacation helping a reserch team from the University of California study the floral ecology of a tropical rain forest in Brazil. She shared some of her slides with us at our first meeting this fall.

Through the unique University Expeditions Program, she and other members of the general public have been able to work side by side with U.C. scientists in field research around the world, sharing in the excitement of discoveries others will only read about. For a free catalog describing all expeditions planned for the 1985 field season, contact: University Research Expeditions Program (UREP), University of California, Desk K2, Berkeley, Ca 94720. Or you may call Lorraine at 477-7011.

CITIZENS TASK FORCE TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

We can not print the text of the two page letter that member Dale Steele recently had published in the Stockton Record. He concludes by stating; "The actual consequences of a nuclear war will never be precisely forseen. The long term destruction of the environment and disruption of the global ecosystem by the nuclear winter phenomenon might be even more devastating for human survival than the awesome short-term destructive effects of nuclear explosions and their fallout." Dale, like many others, believes that this is the most important environmental issue facing the human race. If you are interested in helping out with this issue contact Dale at 310 E. Sonoma, Stockton Ca. 95204.

TASK FORCE MAKES "LAST DITCH" EFFORT TO SAVE ENDANGERED CONDORS

The Condor Task Force includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, the California Department of Fish & Game, the Los Angeles Zoo, and the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park. Five alumni of the zoology, avian science and veterinary progams at U.C. Davis are among those working on this effort. Stockton Audubon has help by giving part of the monies raised by our "Bird-a-thon" efforts to help with this captive breeding program.



Bird Sightings

(4)

Bird sightings are by David Yee unless otherwise noted. SSP is the abbreviation for Stockton Sewage Ponds; DF for Durham Ferry Park area, OGP for Oak Grove Park, LSP for Lodi Sewage Ponds, and CH for Corral Hollow Road.

8-28, a Baird's Sandpiper at SSP, 8-29, five Lazuli Bunting, a Blue Grosbeak and 2 Pectoral Sandpiper at DF. 8-30 a Willow Flycatcher, 7 Black-throated Gray Warblers and 15 Wilson's Warbler at OGP, and 30 Forster's Tern at SSP. On 9-5 15 W. Tanager and 14 Burrowing Owls near DF. 9-6 160 Red-necked Phalarope at SSP and 1 Lesser Nighthawk, a Poorwill and 2 Screech Owl at CH. Also 9-6 there were 2 Lesser Golden Plover at LPS. On 9-13 2 Lesser Yellowlegs and a Sanderling visited the LSP. (Why not "smaller" rather than "lesser" if that is what is meant?) On 9-14 a Hermit Warbler and 2 Lincoln's Sparrow at DF area. On 9-15 20 Warbling Vireo and 2 Chipping Sparrow at CH. 9-21 a Semipalmated Sandpiper at LSP. On 9-22 there were 60 Long-billed Curlew, a Tricolored Blackbird at LSP, 65 Sandhill Crane on Woodbridge Road, 1 Townsend's Warbler and a Lawrence's Goldfinch at OGP. 9-27 found 2 Fox Sparrow, a Nashville Warbler and 2 Golden-crown Sparrow at CH. Nancy Greenwood observed the return of the White-crowned Sparrows in Stockton on 9-29 and the Golden Crowns returned to her garden on 10-6. On 10-1 there were 2 Hermit Thrush at the Oak Grove. Steve Stocking observed Nuttalls Woodpeckers in his trees in Stockton on 10-2. On 10-2 David observed 3 Common Loon, a Common Merganser, 5 Herring Gull and 14 Canada Geese at Lake Comanche. On 10-5 there were 15 Greater Scaup at SSP. On 10-6 Steve observed a Goshawk at Claire Tappan Lodge near Donner Pass and on 10-7 Steve and Linda observed 20 Evening Grosbeak drinking water in a rain puddle near Lake Tahoe and a Common Merganser swimming in the lake. On 10-10 Nancy observed 2 male Y.B. Sapsucker in her yard. On 10-12 David observed 45 Canvasback, 3 Redhead, 6 Ring-necked Duck and a Hooded Merganser at SSP. Steve observed a large flock of American Goldfinch feeding on the fruits of his sycamore trees on 10-24 and Nancy observed a large flock (200) of Cattle Egret near Highway 120 and the San Joaquin River on 10-25. On 10-27 Winter Wren and R.B. Nuthatch as well as other small birds were active at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

DFG NEEDS HELP WITH NON GAME SPECIES

Information gathered primarily by the volunteer efforts of many active field ornithologists is used by DFG and other agencies to help in management activities which may keep bird species from becoming endangered. DFG is actively soliciting help on information gathering for future revised editions of their "Bird Species of Special Concern" prepared by J.V. Remsen.

Of the 61 species of special concern the following occur in our area. Detailed information of sightings should be sent to Non-Game Wildlife Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, Ca 95814. Common Loon, Swainson's Hawk, Merlin, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Bank Swallow, Purple Martin, Least Bittern, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Black Swift and California Gull.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

Birds of Different Feather Also Flock Together, C.A. Munn. "In the lowland forests of South America as many as seventy-species may forage in a single group". pgs 34-42. Natural History Nov-Dec 1984.
Trouble in the Tropics, Peter Steinhart. "Why are many bird populations declining in this country? The answer may be found in Latin America" pgs 16-20. National Wildlife Dec-Jan 1984.



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION GROUP
OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OFFERS HELP FOR
SICK, INJURED & ORPHANED
CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

MEDICAL THERAPY & REHABILITATION
IS DONATED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

OWLS, HAWKS, EAGLES, VULTURES
KIT, KATHY, BUSHY or ED CRUMP
209 477 0602 (STOCKTON)

OR
ALL OTHER BIRD SPECIES
DORIS or BARBARA BECKWITH
209 477 7301 (STOCKTON)

OR
FOUR LEGGED ANIMALS & REPTILES
KEN NIELAND, SUSAN WIEER
or JAMES REXROTH
209 369 4635 (LODI)

INJURED WILDLIFE DELIVER TO:

BRIAN K. BAKER, DVM
VENETIAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL
1409 ROSEMARIE LANE, STKN
CALL FIRST: 209 477 3926
OR

RICK TURNER, DVM
ARBOR PET CLINIC
815-A NO, CALIFORNIA ST., LODI
CALL FIRST: 209 334 4257
OR

MICKE GROVE ZOO
11793 N. MICKE GROVE RD., LODI
CALL FIRST: 209 369 4635

AFTER HOURS OR HOLIDAYS:
STOCKTON EMERGENCY
VETERINARY CLINIC
6709 N. PLYMOUTH RD., STKN
CALL FIRST: 209 957 7470

WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS THAT
DONATE OUR SERVICES TO
CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE AND
ARE LICENSED BY CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
HOUR DONATION MUST BE THE
TRANSPORTATION TO THE
VOLUNTEER OF YOUR CHOICE.