



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 23 #6

Calendar



Nov-Dec '85

- Tuesday November 12. STOCKTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Audubon naturalist John Borneman will show slides & discuss the life, history, and current efforts to save the CALIFORNIA CONDORS. 7:30, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.
- Saturday November 16. FIELD TRIP: Hunt-Wesson Hawk/Owl Preserve. This area outside Davis is renowned for the numbers of raptors that frequent this preserve. Meet John & Kathy Schick at Burn's Tower of U.O.P. at 8am to carpool. Information: 464-7083.
- Saturday November 23. FIELD TRIP: Oak Island and Tracy Sewage Ponds. Join Terry Ronneberg at two of his favorite areas. Oak Island is a fine riparian area north of Tracy. Meet Terry at the entrance to Oak Island on Finck Road off Tracy Blvd. at 8:00am. Information: 835-7847.
- Sunday November 24. OAK GROVE PARK WORK DAY. 8:30 to 2:30. Planting of shrubs, trees, and wildflower seeds. Work clothes "derigor". Call Steve Stocking at 463-2459 for further information. (no reservations necessary)
- Wednesday, December 4. Board Meeting. 7:30. Call Vic Wycoff: 477-0376.
- Sunday December 8. FIELD TRIP: Caswell State Park. Great anytime of year for birds of riparian forest and open fields. Harold Reeves, one of the best Modesto birders will lead. Meet him at the Park entrance at 8am. Information: 537-3314.
- Tuesday, December 10. BIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP. (Membership Meeting) This will help prepare those participating in the upcoming bird counts in December and January. David Yee & George Welch will present their slides which will illustrate well the winter birds of this area. 7:30, Central United Methodist Church.
- Saturday December 14. STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. We need your participation to make this a success. Call David Yee to volunteer. 951-1526.
- Also Saturday December 14, 10 to 4. Oak Grove Docents Bake Sale. Come by Gemco to buy & to donate. Call Lois Davis 477-8353.
- Saturday January 4. WALLACE BELLOTA BIRD COUNT. Again we will need your help, experts and novices both. Call George Welch...4779618.
- Plan Ahead: WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 11th ANNUAL MEETING. SACRAMENTO. For further information call George Welch at....477-9618.
- "THE WORLD OF AUDUBON" Recently this excellent series of one hour specials has been on T.V. cable in some areas (NOT HERE). We have the first two on video tape, if you would like to borrow for your group or class call Kathy Schick at 464-7083. Topics covered include Sea Otter, Pink Flamingo, Alaska Eagles, Grizzly problems, Project Puffin, & Acid Rain.



Birds

The following sightings are by David Yee, except where noted. LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds, SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL Lodi Lake, OG is Oak Grove Park, and DF is Durham Ferry.

On August 15 Norm Smith observed 2 River Otters at Little Mandeville Island in the Delta (not birds, but very interesting. There were 5 Cedar Waxwings, a Hutton's Vireo, 15 Western Tanagers and 2 Hermit Thrush at LL and both a Lesser Golden Plover and a Short-billed Dowitcher at LSP on August 30. September 2 there was a Baird's Sandpiper and a Pectoral Sandpiper at LSP. Sept. 4 found 9 Lesser

Yellowlegs at SSP, 20 Warbling Vireo at OG and 5 Savannah Sparrow at LSP. 9-5 6 Lazuli Bunting at DF., 9-9 a Solitary Sandpiper at SSP., On Sept 10 Margaret Boise observed a L. Shrike at Swain Rd and I-5. 9-10 a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at OG and 3 Semipalmated Plovers at LSP. 9-11 a Marbled Godwit at SSP. 9-14 6 Greater Scaup and a Wandering Tattler at SSP. 9-16 a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at LL. September 16 Nancy Greenwood observed a Western Tanager in her Stockton yard. 9-18 10,000 Barn Swallow over Woodbridge Rd. and a Yellow-rumped Warbler at SSP. 9-19 a solitary Solitary Vireo, two Townsend's Warblers and a Hermit Warbler at DF. On September 19 Karl and Sylvia Kothe carefully observed a Summer Tanager in their Stockton yard. September 20 found 5 Sandhill Crane over Stockton (this seems early). On Sept. 21 there was a Dusky Flycatcher and a Red-br Sapsucker in Lewis Park. Sept 22 a Willow Flycatcher at the Yee residence. Sept 23 there were two Western Grebe at SSP. 9-25 Terry Ronneberg observed 2 Sabine's Gull at the Tracy Sewage Ponds. 9-27 there was a Swainson's Thrush, a Chipping Sparrow and five Lincoln's Sparrows at OG. Sept 30 Karl Kothe observed two Wilson's Warblers at OG and on Oct. 2 he saw a Hutton's Vireo there. On Oct. 3 he observed a Great Horned Owl in Stockton. That same day David observed a Horned Grebe and a Sabine's Gull at SSP. 10-4 a Dunlin and a Prairie Warbler at DF. and 10-5 three Lewis' Woodpecker at Camanche Res. On Oct. 6 Nancy Greenwood had a House Wren at her House in Stockton. On October 9 there was a Common Loon, a Clark's Grebe, a Little Gull and two Green-winged Teal at SSP. Oct. 14 Linda Stocking observed a Screech Owl at her home in Stockton, on Oct 17 Steve Stocking observed a Hermit Thrush in much the same place and on Oct 19 he noted a Kestrel on the parking lots at Delta College. During the whole period a small group of Burrowing Owls have been in their hole on Brookside Rd, Stockton.

BIRD NOTES: by David Yee

Birding in California is often at its best in the Fall. A group of Stockton Auduboners were able to attest to this during our Sept 7-8 fieldtrip to Monterey. Starting at Moss Landing we observed many species for which this area is renowned including Least Tern, Red-Breasted Merganser, Snowy Plover Red Knot, and Elegant Tern. An afternoon visit to the Carmel River was a little windy but we still managed some views of Pectoral Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher and Indigo Bunting. Sunday's pelagic boat trip on the Bay was spectacular. Standouts included Buller's Shearwater, all 3 Jaegers, 8 South Polar Stuas, 4 Sabine's Gulls and up to 50 Arctic Terns. But the real crowd pleasers were the marine mammals. Five species were observed: Sea Otter Pacific White-sided Dolphin, Dall's Porpoise, N. Right-whale Dolphin, and Risso's Dolphin.

Rarely a Fall goes by in California where a very rare shorebird does not grace our coast. This year it was the Little Stint in Monterey. Chasers George and Locky Welch and David Yee decided to join the madness and managed to see this gorgeous little Siberian sandpiper. They were also able to see a White-rumped Sandpiper at the Salinas Sewer Ponds. While not a foreigner to our country it is an extreme rarity in California. (see pg. 3)

Bird Notes (cont.)

Once again the enigmatic folks at the American Ornithological Union have made some bird name changes. Of course the birds have always known who they are, it's our way of looking at them that constantly changes. It seems that the "splitters" are having their way of late. The two races of Arctic Loon have been split: the Siberian race now is the Arctic and the North American race is the Pacific Loon. The final "race" of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is now split into Yellow-bellied and Red-napped. Finally, the 2 Western Grebes have been split as Western and Clark's Grebes. The National Geographic field guide covers the ID differences on the latter two. It's anybody's guess on the former.

An excellent new bird identification book is Rich Stallcup's Bird's for Real. It is his corrections and additions to the Golden Press' 1983 revised "A Guide to Field Identification of Birds of N.A.". It is very well done, highly informative, and entertaining. As many of you know, the revisions of the book were primarily in the text and range ~~maps~~, with hardly a thing done to update the plates. Stallcup's book updates many of the errors in these plates.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S: FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. NOW AVAILABLE FOR DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$13.16. (REGULARLY \$15.95)
AT STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETINGS OR CONTACT GEORGE WELCH
AT 477-9618.

University of California Research Expeditions Program

The U.C. Research Expeditions Program is currently recruiting members for December field teams slated to investigate ant/plant relationships in the pristine rain forests of Costa Rica and to study the behavior of Vizcachas, a ground-burrowing cousin of the chichilla in the frontiers of Patagonia. No previous experience is needed to join the expeditions, which are led by U.C. scholars. Contributions to join the expeditions vary and are tax deductible. People interested in obtaining a free catalog describing these and other expedition offerings in 1986, should contact University Research Expeditions Program, U. of C., Desk D-10, Berkeley, Ca 94720, or call (415) 642-6586.

FIELD BOTANY TO BE OFFERED AGAIN THIS SPRING AT DELTA COLLEGE. This 3 unit, non-technical introduction to the study of native plants will begin Feb 3 and end June 10. The units are transferable. The class will meet each Monday from 3:30 to 5:30 and will have two all-day field trips. Call instructor, Steve Stocking at 463-2459 evenings for more information.

The Department of the Interior plans to lease a 13,820 acre privately owned ranch as a protected feeding ground for the endangered condor. Three of the 20 remaining condors will be released next spring on the Hudson Ranch, about 40 miles south of Bakersfield. Will this help to save the condors? Come to the November meeting and ask our noted speaker John Borneman who has spent much of his professional life studying the condor.

GALAPAGOS-EQUADOR-PERU and AMAZON, too!

A benefit for Mono Lake, June 24-July 10, 1986

Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring an exciting fund-raising excursion to the Galapagos, Ecuador and Peru in 1986. The trip offers participants an exceptional opportunity to experience Darwin's "enchanted isles" and the rich cultures ancient, and present day, of the Andes. For more information: send SASE to "Adventure for MLC, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave. Berkeley, Ca. 94708.

