



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 24 #6

Calendar



Nov-Dec '86

- Tuesday Nov. 4. Stockton Audubon Board Meeting at the home of our President George Welch. Call him for information: 477-9618.
- Saturday Nov 8. Field Trip: GREYLODGE. There's probably no better spot in the Sacramento Valley for observing waterfowl. Swans, geese, ducks in enormous numbers as well as raptors and rarities are to be expected. It is about a 2½ hour drive so plan for a full day, and bring lunch. Meet leaders John & Kathy Schick at 7am a Burn's Tower, U.O.P. to carpool. Call 464-7083 for information.
- Tuesday Nov. 11. STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. Richard Ives will present an illustrated slide program on the WILDLIFE OF SOUTHERN ASIA. Meet at United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton. 7:30pm
- Saturday Nov. 15 Fied Trip: STOCKTON SEWAGE PONDS. A fall trip to these amazing ponds produce waterbirds of all kinds. The highlights always being the rare gulls that winter here including Little, Black-headed & Thayer's. Meet David Yee at the entrance to the complex off Hwy 4 at 9:00 am. 951-1526.
- Saturday Dec. 6 Field Trip: NORTH FROM STOCKTON. This trip will be geared toward helping us to identify those birds to be expected on the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Leader Kurt Mize will pay particular attention to those similar looking species which often pose ID problems. We'll bird Oak Grove, Lodi Sewage Ponds, Woodbridge Road and other areas. Meet at Oak Grove at 8:00am 957-0676
- Tuesday Dec. 9 STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. David Yee and George Welch will present a slide-program/workshop on bird identification. This will be in preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts but will be helpful to all of those of you who want to improve your skills at identification of winter birds of this area. Meet at the United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton. 7:30pm.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT DAYS.....PUT THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR
The Stockton Count.....Saturday December 20, David Yee 951-1526
The Wallace-Bellota Count..Sat. January 3, George Welch 477-9618

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Yes! It's that time of the year again. And again, Stockton Audubon will be conducting 2 Christmas Bird Counts, the Stockton Count on Saturday, Dec 2 and the Wallace-Bellota Count on Saturday, January 3. The Stockton Count area is west of Lodi and north of Stockton and the Wallace-Bellota Count is in the foothills east of Stockton. Your participation is essential in making these counts successful.

So why would you want to give up a day or two during the most busy season of the year to go out in potentially cold, rainy weather? Let me count the ways. First, the annual Christmas Bird Counts held throughout North America...

(continued on pg.2)

CHRISTMAS COUNTS (continued)

have helped to establish one of the most broad data bases on bird population dynamics. Second, not only do you get to know familiar birds better, but more rarities are found on Christmas counts than during any other time of the year. Third, the comradery of birding with a group of people when there's a definite purpose behind the activity is a good feeling...even if it is nasty weather. Finally, George Welch and I are determined to make our 2 counts the most exciting, envied ones in Northern California, and we need your help to do it! So please join us on one or both counts. You'll be richly rewarded. After each count there is a gathering at a residence of a Stockton Audubon member to eat, share counts, and experiences. Attend the Stockton Audubon meetings (particularly December) for more information on these events.

....David Yee 951-1526

HOPE FOR CALIFORNIA SEA OTTER'S FUTURE

The California sea otter will remain threatened with serious depletion or extinction as long as its entire population is located along the central California coast--an area where major oil hazards in the form of coastal tanker traffic already exist and increased offshore oil drilling activities are projected.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing to capture up to 70 California sea otters, primarily from the southern portion of their existing range off San Luis Obispo County, and move them to San Nicolas Island in the fall of 1987. This is their "Preferred Alternative 1-C". Letters of support should be sent to:

Regional Director
Attn: Sea Otter Comments
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
500 N.E. Multnomah St. Suite 1692
Portland, Oregon, 97232

Deadline for comments: NOVEMBER 17, 1986

SWALLOW INFORMATION CENTER

Cliff swallows use their breeding colonies as information centers for facilitating the continuing search for food, as do social insects. The swallows are monogamous, migratory birds that nest in colonies, building mud nests on the undersides of cliffs, canyons, buildings and other structures. They capture insects from large temporary clusters that form in local convection currents and that generally disperse after 20 to 30 minutes. Swallows that successful in finding an insect cluster frequently lead other previously unsuccessful birds to the food source. Because there is no evidence to indicate that birds communicate information through the use of language or chemicals such as pheromones, it is likely that the birds identified successful foragers by the food apparent in their bills and throats or by their rocking motions on the rims of nests as they fed nestlings. There were no community leaders: all birds followed others about 40% of the time. There appear to be no disadvantages to this mechanism for finding food; it may well have figured in the evolution of the group-living arrangement.

Science, Oct. 3 1986

PROBLEMS CONTINUE AT KESTERSON

Second-year findings from shorebirds (stilts & avocets) indicate: (1) Bird embryo abnormalities are increasing (abnormalities in avocets were observed for the first time); (2) hatching mortality continues. (3) no stilt or avocet young were observed to survive to the flight stage. The hazing program has had no apparent success in reducing nesting.

BIRDS

Except when noted, all sightings by David Yee.

SSP= Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL= Lodi Lake,
LSP= Lodi Sewage Ponds

8-27 3 Bonaparte's Gull SSP, 8-29 4 Vaux's Swift, Red-br Nuthatch, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler (3), 5 Blk-th Gray Warbler, 25 Yellow Warbler, 25 W. Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, & Pine Siskin all LL. 9-1 a Yellow-br Chat at LL and a Willow Flycatcher in Stockton by Sue Yee. 9-3 a Solitary Vireo at LL. 9-10 a Calliope Hummer at LL. and an Amer. Wigeon & a Gr-winged Teal at SSP. 9-13 L. Pederson observed a Pileolated Woodpecker near West Point, Calaveras Co. 9-15 8 Hooded Oriole at LL. 9-17 a Ruddy Turnstone at SSP. on 9-18 a Sharp-sh Hawk and 2 Chippin Sparrow at LL and 2 Lesser Golden Plover at LSP. 9-19 a Sabine's Gull at SSP & on 9-20 a Blue-w Teal at LSP. On 9-20 S. Stocking observed a flight of Snow Geese over Stockton. 9-20 a Hammond's Flycatcher at LL. 9-21 Nancy Greenwood observed her first W-cr. Sparrow of the Fall in her Stockton Yard. On 9-22 she noted her first Sandhill Cranes of the Fall over Stockton. 9-22 a Solitary Sandpiper was at LSP. 9-23 2 Lewis' Woodpeckers at LL. and 9-25 8 V-gr Swallow, a Purple Finch, a Rose-br Grosbeak, an Evening Grosbeak and a Varied Thrush all at LL. On Sept 27 a Stockton Audubon group led by Geo. Welch visited the McGurk ranch where they observed Orange-cr, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers etc. 9-29 a Pectoral Sandpiper at SSP, 9-30 a Cooper's Hawk & 2 Winter Wren at LL. 10-6 a Baird's Sandpiper, a Dunlin & a Short-billed Dowitcher at LSP. 10-8 a Horned Grebe at LSP. 10-9 T.R Chambers observed a partial albino Rd-tailed Hawk at Jesus Maria Rd in Calaveras Co and on 10-12 he watched an Osprey at Pardee Lake. 10-13 found a Solitary Sandpiper and a Merlin at LSP. 10-14 a Little Gull and a Redhead were at SSP. S. Stocking observed Red-br Nuthatch at his residence on 10-12, at Oak Grove Park on 10-16 & and on the Delta College Campus on 10-18. (Havn't seen so many in Stockton for years). On the weekend of Oct. 18-19 the group of 11 Stockton Audubon members who spent the Weekend at Bolinas were rewarded with views of at least 43 different land and water birds including Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Fox Sparrow, Varied Thrush & many more. On 10-25 T.R. Chambers observed both Bald Eagle & Osprey at Pardee and many Lewis Woodpeckers on the road from Paloma to Jackson.

Need Christmas Presents? The "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" is probably the best field guide available today. For a good deal on this contact George Welch 477-9618.

Basics of Roadbirding: Advice From an Expert Audubon 7-86 pg 89-91. There is no question that the author is truly an expert and should have his drivers license revoked.

They'er Not Called "Birdwatchers" Anymore. Oct-Nov '86 Natl. Wildlife, pg 47-51. This article puts birders and birding in focus.

Americans bring 2,000 exotic birds into the country that have been captured in the wild. One-fourth of the birds are dead when they arrive, or die before they find an owner.



FIELD BOTANY

Botany 12

INSTRUCTOR: S. STOCKING



Spring Semester
Delta College

3 Units 2 Field Trips