



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Calendar



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Nov-Dec 1988

Tuesday Nov. 8 STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING; Geoffrey Geupel, a Point Reyes Bird Observatory Field Biologist has recently spent 4 years in Antarctica. He will show slides of his studies of the Chinstrap, Adelle and Gentoo Penguins. 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church at the corner of Pacific and Fulton in Stockton. Ample free parking.

Saturday Nov. 19 FIELD TRIP; LEWALLEN RANCH: This lovely piece of property just east of Linden contains a nice mixture of open grassland, oak woodland, and small ponds. It also happens to be in the middle of the Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count Circle, so a visit beforehand should give us a preview of what to expect. Osprey and Golden Eagle have been seen in the past. Meet John & Kathy Schick at their home, 940 N. Argonaut, to carpool at 7:30am. For more information call 464-7083.

Saturday Dec. 3. NORTH STOCKTON ADVENTURE. Join David Yee as he scouts areas for the upcoming Stockton Bird Count. Areas to be visited include the Lodi Sewage Ponds, W. Eight-Mile Road and Woodbridge Road. Meet at Oak Grove Park at 7:30. For further information call 951-1526 or 466-3337.

Tuesday Dec. 13 PRACTICE FOR THE BIRD COUNTS. Slides of local "problem" birds will be shown to prepare you or give you review for the upcoming "Bird Counts". Even if you can't get out on one of the counts you might like to better recognize our local avian fauna. Question the experts! Sign up for a count! Get eye strain! Have some refreshments! 7:30 at Central United Methodist Church, Fulton and Pacific in Stockton. Call George Welch, Program Chair at 477-9618 for further information.

Saturday Dec 17. STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. For information call the count Co:ordinator David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337.

Saturday Dec 31. WALLACE-BELLOTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. For information call the count Co:ordinator George Welch at 477-9618 or 468-6200.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Audubon's most prized group-oriented activity is once again at hand: the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Our Audubon group sponsors two: the Stockton CBC and the Wallace-Bellota CBC. The former takes in part of the Delta with Brovelli Woods to the north and Oak Grove Park to the south. The Wallace-Bellota count takes in the foothills just south of Camanche Reservoir. Both have been gaining a reputation as 2 of the better CBC's within the Central Valley. This is due to more and more birds being observed as more and more people like yourselves participate. No matter what your experience, your talents can be utilized and are essential to the continuing success of our counts. Besides, the counts are great fun... sometimes in spite of the weather. So join us!

OAK TREE PLANTING AT COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy, Cosumnes River Preserve will be planting oak trees from acorns at the preserve during the month of November. During the first three weekends of November (both Saturday and Sunday) they will need 80 volunteers each weekend to assist in the endeavor. If interested contact Bruce Handley, 1985 Oxford, Sacramento, Ca. 95815. 916 921-5947.

WHY SUE THE CITY?

As one of the plaintiffs, I am very confused by the recent actions of the Stockton City Council relating to the two lawsuits that we of the Land Utilization Alliance have brought against the City. I chose to sue the City to bring before the courts what seems to me a clear matter of law. The City Council is the agency which must enforce state laws on environment, planning and development. I and others feel that the strict requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act are not being enforced in Stockton. We also feel, as our second lawsuit states, the City of Stockton does not have an adequate General Plan for growth and development as required by law BEFORE it can even consider annexing land into the city limits or allowing development within.

We don't intend to stop the development(s) from being built, but rather we want to see them built properly and after due process. We hope that the result of our lawsuit will guide the City in logical, lawful planning for development in the future.

None of us will gain any funds even from winning the lawsuit. In fact, we have already had to advance considerable legal costs. But a lawsuit does not require the City to advance legal costs, for they already have a City Attorney with a staff of five lawyers. And even though they were clearly outnumbered, our two attorneys have continued all along to meet with six lawyers from the City Attorney's Office and developers' staff at settlement conferences in hopes that this matter may be resolved without dragging through court.

Why then has the City Council accepted \$100,000 from Spanos for legal fees to hire outside counsel? We taxpayers already pay the City Attorney \$73,000 yearly plus benefits. Why couldn't Spanos have offered the \$100,000 to the City to speed up the completion of the General Plan? Why accept money to defend an inadequate general plan rather than to correct its deficiencies.

Our lawyers warn us that as soon as we ask for an injunction to make the city follow proper environmental and planning law, we may be asked to post a bond of as much as \$100,000. But, despite such pressures, LUA holds firm and we will continue to press the lawsuit. (We will, however welcome much needed donations. Land Utilization Alliance Legal Fund, P. O. Box 1259 Stockton Ca. 95201.

STOCKTON AUDUBON JOINS LUA

At the meeting of August 16th, board members of Stockton Audubon Society voted to join the loosely structured Land Utilization Alliance, a network of groups who are concerned with the effect of current planning policies on our environment. Joining LUA required no dues and the only commitment is that we have designated a delegate, Kathy Schick, to attend meetings and pool EIR information on new developments.

UPDATE ON SPANOS PARK

Even two months later, no attempt has been made by the developer to offer mitigation (after study) for the Swainson's Hawks, nor have the other 3 requirements of the City Council received any notice in writing anywhere. LAFCO, the county commission which must approve all land annexations, approved the Spanos EIR without the 4 amendments which the City Council required. I continue to represent Audubon at all the hearings on this matter, but personally I have become so disgusted that I joined in a lawsuit against the City.

(the above three articles by Kathy Schick, Conservation Chair)

PUBLICATIONS:

California Field Checklists are available from Stockton Audubon. This newest updated edition of all the birds that have been recorded in our fine state is attractive and useful. Ten different columns allow one to use the checklist for state, county, yard lists etc. Cost is \$1.50 from David Yee, 2930 Driftwood Pl #39, Stkn, 95207. They will also be available at all meetings and many of the fieldtrips.

The outstanding NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE, 2ND EDITION will be available at Fall meetings of Stockton Audubon. The price will be a special steal at \$15.00. Contact George Welch if you are interested... or come to a meeting



DUCK STAMPS

If you buy a "Duck Stamp" at the Post Office you help to support wildlife refuge programs. Most of these stamps are purchased by hunters, but we use refuges and need to support them as well.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Nancy Greenwood has been participating in the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology "Project Feederwatch". Call Nancy at 462-2724 if you would be interested in this program. You keep a record of birds at your feeder, but to learn more about possible participation, call her!



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. Please send your observations to the editor.

8-23 a Hutton's Vireo, 15 Warbling Vireo 2 Willow Flycatcher, 5 West Flycatcher, 15 Wilson's Warbler, 1 MacGillivray's Warbler, 20 W. Tanager, 7 Hooded Oriole. "End of Aug." Kurt Mize observed 28 "life birds" while in the Chicago area including Bob-O-Link, Brown Thrasher, Oven Bird and many other warblers. 8-24 4 Semipalmated Plover & 2 Short-billed Dowitcher at LSP. 8-25 10 Cedar Waxwing and 1 Townsend's Warbler at LL. 8-31 40 White Pelican, a Greater Scaup, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Baird's Sandpiper, 10 Wilson's Phalarope and 30 Red-necked Phalarope at LSP. 9-2 3 Lesser Yellowlegs at LSP, 9-3 a Bufflehead at LSP. On 9-4 Russ Lawson and Jerry Turner observed the following near Pt. Reyes, 200 Tri-colored Blackbirds, 3 Virginia Rail, White Pelican, Caspian Terns, Whimbrels, Willets, Godwits etc, etc. 9-5 a Cooper's Hawk and a Least Flycatcher at LL. 9-6 a Yellow-breasted Chat, 5 Black-th Gray Warbler and 2 Lazuli Bunting at LL, 9-10 a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a Pine Siskin at LL. 9-10 John Schick at 8 others participated in the Monthly Bird Census at Cosumnes River Preserve where they observed 638 birds of 41 species, included were Common Yellowthroat and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 9-13 a Pectoral Sandpiper at LSP and a Ring-necked Duck at SSP. 9-14 an Osprey, a Hermit Warbler and a Fox Sparrow at LL, 8 Sandhill Cranes had arrived at Woodbridge Road. 9-15 a Lesser Golden-plover at LSP, 9-17 a solitary Solitary Vireo at LL, a Common Tern at LSP. 9-21 5 Vaux's Swift at LL. 9-25 Russ and Jerry observed the following at Golden Gate N.R.A., 3 Sharp-shinned Hawk and 2 Ravens etc. at Drakes Bay they observed White Pelicans, Surf Scoters and Say's Phoebe etc. 9-27 a Franklin's Gull at SSP. 10-1 12 Band-tailed Pigeons at Donner Pass by S. Stocking. 10-12 2 Varied Thrush, 10 Chipping Sparrow, at Acampo Road and a West. Grebe and 5 Am. Wigeon at SSP. 10-14 a Swainson's; Thrush at LL and a Northern Wheatear near Chico. 10-15 a Bendire's Thrasher near Acampo. 10-16 a Lawrence's Goldfinch at Stockton Rural Cemetary, 10-29 found 150 Tundra Swans on 8 Mile Rd. 10 -30 a Canyon Wren, Winter Wren and several "summer" birds at 6,500 ft. in the Sierra, Grant Grove KCNP by S. Stocking, R. Brown & J. Sellers.

VOTE YES ON 99 FOR PARKS & WILDLIFE

Your Yes Vote on Proposition 99 will save lives and help protect California's environment.

Proposition 99 (The Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Initiative) rejuvenates California's environmental protection programs by providing \$30 million each year for conservation purposes:

- * \$15 million each year for programs to preserve, enhance, and manage habitat for fisheries, wildlife and waterfowl; and
- * \$15 million each year for local and state parks.

Funds will also be earmarked to teach school children about the dangers of smoking cigarettes, and for research to find cures to tobacco related diseases like cancer and emphysema.

Proposition 99 is the most important lifesaving and environmental protection measure on this November's ballot. We hope you will vote for it. Did you know that the recent large fire in Sequoia National Park was started by a discarded cigarette? You paid thousands of tax dollars to put it out.



ENDANGERED SPECIES TAX CHECKOFF

The voluntary Endangered Species Program has been preserved in California for 5 years. So you can still help by marking line 45 on your State Tax Form. This has included help for Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Greater Sandhill Crane, Bald Eagle and 250 other species. This is a better investment than a lottery ticket.

THE GOOD NEWS!

The 360 acre Robin Dell Farm has been purchased by the State Wildlife Conservation Board to be added to the existing Thornton Road Fish and Game, Sandhill Crane Preserve. We have had many field trips to this area in the past thanks to long-time Stockton Audubon member and land-owner Newt Robinson. Newt has been a life-long hunter and genuine friend of the environment.

THE BAD NEWS!

It looks as if the Brovelli Woods area which was proposed for purchase with Prop 70 funds will instead become a golf course. We have had many excellent field trips to this area which is within our Christmas Count area. The State has offered to buy it, but in this case there are land speculators who have offered the owners 4 times as much as the State can afford. Such speculators can hold the property, try to get the zoning changed and then possibly sell it later for even a higher price.