



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

November-December 1989

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER GENERAL MEETINGS

Our November 14th general meeting at the Haggin Museum will feature noted birder David Yee. His slide show is entitled "Introduction to the Birds of San Joaquin County" but will offer useful tips to advanced birders as well as novices. We welcome an audience of not yet Audubon members as well as entrenched members to this 7:30 meeting.

David will follow his educational slide show with a special birdwatching field trip the following Saturday (11/18) from 9 to noon. We hope to have lots of advanced birders (bringing scopes) on hand for this trip to help point out the birds of Woodbridge Road to an unknown number of novices. Participants should meet and carpool at 9 a.m. on the front steps of the Haggin Museum.

Our December 12th general meeting at the museum will feature Audubon members David Yee and Dick Filson presenting slides of "Bird Field Marks for Species Identification" to aid us in the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. This is always a popular December program and will also begin at 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Our annual Christmas Bird Counts will be held on Saturdays this year: December 16 and 30. These annual censuses are great opportunities for all levels of birders. Even beginning birders can help their teams by recording sightings while learning birding techniques from their advanced teammates. Every team always has lots of great sightings to report.

The Stockton Count covers a circle from north Stockton into Lodi. This count finds a wealth of wintering waterfowl. Call David Yee (951-1526 -evenings) to join this count.

The Bellota Count gets up into the base of the foothills in the Clements area. Here we find the birds of the Blue Oak-Digger Pine and chaparral habitats. Call Dick Filson (466-8414 evenings) to join this count.

Tips for first-timers: Wear warm clothing, layered. Bring a lunch or snack and beverage.

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON

At its October meeting the board voted to change our name to SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY in January 1990. Any member having concerns about this should call a board officer (telephone numbers on outer page).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All of us on your Board of Directors hope you 600 local members enjoyed this beautiful Indian summer we've had throughout the Valley during the first half of October. We are a real nature loving group and are very proud of the great observational opportunities so close at hand. Get out and soak in the sounds, smells and sights of wrens, warblers, Magpies, Monarchs and multitudes of native plants where we live. Get out and enjoy wild places at White Slough, Willow Slough, Westgate Landing, Spud Island, Mandeville Tip, Van Assen, Woodbridge, Oak Grove, Corral Hollow, Durham Ferry, and other places just you know.

Some "to do" requests to keep you busier and happier as ardent conservationists (you are, aren't you?):

- 1) Visit the Haggin Museum's Audubon/Bien print exhibit (look for the one where the rattlesnake and Mockingbirds are having a battle).
- 2) Attend the November 14th program where David Yee will speak and show Birds of the San Joaquin.
- 3) Participate this year in both Christmas Counts (the 90th year); December 16 and December 30 - it's great fun.
- 4) Take a moment and a 25 cent stamp and write your City Councilperson and ask for a city Heritage Tree Ordinance like other California cities have.
- 5) Think hard about owner/developers ruining 870 acres of Brovelli Woods for their own narrow interests (dozens of native oaks already cut down for a golf course), to include excluding the public from this treasure designated for over 20 years as a public wildlife preserve in the County General Plan, and help us fight the ruination of this last large pristine county wild resource.
- 6) See in your mind's eye how exciting a long Mokelumne River Parkway would be - like the nationally renown American River Parkway in Sacramento - we can have it there - it's not too late to write Assemblyman Isenberg or Johnston and Senator Garamendi and say you want it and need it for your kids and grandkids.
- 7) PLEASE write your county Supervisor and ask him/her to push the County Planning Department's proposal to adopt a strong Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance and then resist developer/farmer pressure to weaken it - this is HOT now - please do it: write.

-Vic Wykoff

SEE INSIDE:

National Shrimp Boycott, City Council Candidates Answer Conservation Questionnaire, and more.

BIRDS:

David Yee reports 9/1 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler 1 Yellow-breasted Chat 5 Hooded Oriole at LL; 9/2 1 Osprey 35 Western Tanager 1 Vaux's Swift (by G. Welch) at LL, 1 Lesser Golden Plover at LSP; 9/4 1 Greater Roadrunner 7 Rufous-crowned Sparrow 4 Phainopepla at CH, 3 Marbled Godwit at TSP, 2 Short-billed Dowitchers 1 Ferruginous Hawk 8 Blue Grosbeak at Holt; 9/8 10 Warbling Vireo 15 Yellow Warbler 2 Townsend's Warbler 3 MacGillivray's Warbler at LL; 9/11 1 Sabine's Gull at TSP; 9/12 1st White-crowned Sparrow at his home; 9/13 1 Hermit Thrush 5 Fox Sparrow at LL; 9/14 3 Common Terns 1 White Pelican near Turner Cut; 9/20 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 Swainson's Thrush 1 Hutton's Vireo at LL, 40 Sandhill Crane (by S. Yee) over Stockton; 9/22 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds 1 Purple Finch 1 Lawrence's Goldfinch at LL, 1 Blue-winged Teal pair Ring-necked Ducks near Turner Cut; 9/24 1 Bonie Gull 18 Eared Grebe at LL; 9/26 4000 Mallard 6 Pectoral Sandpiper at Terminous; 9/27 50,000 Tree Swallow 20,000 Barn Swallow at Empire Tract; 9/28 60 White-faced Ibis 2 White-fronted Goose 100 Green-winged Teal 5000 Pintail at Terminous; 9/30 3 Solitary Vireo 1 Oregon Junco at LL, 1 Bendire's Thrasher at Acampo, 6 Lesser Golden Plover 1 Dunlin at LSP; 10/1 2 Golden-crowned Kinglet at Stockton; 10/3 2 Mew Gull at LSP, 3 Varied Thrush at White Slough; 10/10 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird at Terminous; 10/11 1 Band-tailed Pigeon at LL; 10/14 10 Lesser Yellowlegs at Staten Island, 1 Lesser Scaup at LSP

John Schick reports 9/9 4 White-faced Ibis (54 species) at CRP; 10/14 20 Golden-crowned Kinglet 2 Black-throated Gray Warbler 4 White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Red-breasted Sapsucker (56 species) at CRP; 10/19 1 Peregrine Falcon at downtown Stockton. Jim Rewoth reports 9/4 1 Green-tailed Towhee, Allen's Hummingbirds 1 Great Horned Owl 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager at LL. Mr. Chambers of Valley Springs observed 8/7 1 Greater Roadrunner at Hollister 1 Osprey at Rt. 26 & Bellota 3 Turkey at Pardee. Sara Russell saw 9/12 1 Wood Duck at Calaveras River.

LL-Lodi Lake, LSP-Lodi Sewer Ponds, CH-Corral Hollow, SSP-Stockton Sewer Ponds, TSP-Tracy Sewer Ponds, CRP-Cosumnes River Preserve

NEW NAMES/OLD BIRDS

This summer the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) announced several taxonomic changes ("splits") and new names which affect local birders. You may wish to jot them in your field guide so you can begin using and recognizing the "right" names.

The Western Flycatcher has been split into two species. Ours is now known as the **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**; the one east of the Sierra is the **Cordilleran Flycatcher**. The world's Water Pipits are now split and ours is the **American Pipit**. The Brown Towhee has been split into our **California Towhee** and the Arizona/Texas **Canyon Towhee**. The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher has also been split into the **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** (Mohave Desert to Texas) and the **California Gnatcatcher** of the southern California coastal scrub. Additionally, the Common Barn-Owl has been renamed simply **Barn Owl**. Hawk-Owl has been changed to **Northern Hawk Owl**; Common Pauraque has been shortened to **Pauraque**.

CANDIDATES EXPRESS VIEWS ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Because our recent conservation work has involved working with the members of local government, the board authorized a 10 point questionnaire to be sent to all candidates for mayor and city council of Stockton. They were sent in early October and we asked that they be returned October 20. As of our deadline, replies had been received from the following candidates: **Mayor Joan Darrah, Miguel Leanos, and Leonard Pomcier, City Council Dale Allen, Harvey Bills, Mike De Toro, Enrique Lang, Jack Laven, Beverly McCarthy, Loralee McGaughey, Frank Quilantang, Edward Storm, and James Tortora.** This represents 1/3 of the total of 36 candidates. We noted that only 2 incumbents responded.

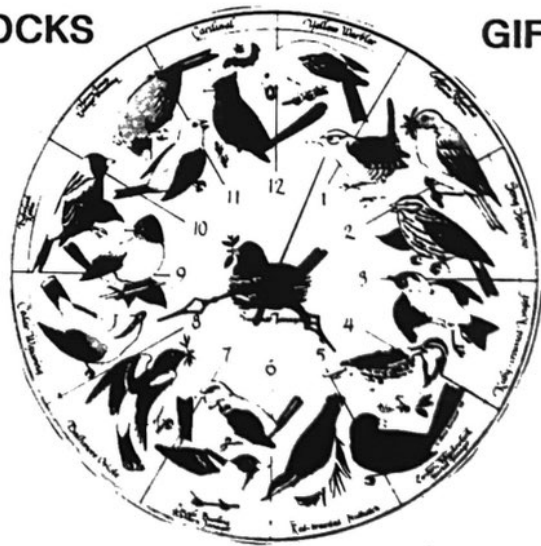
The questionnaire tried to focus on potential local issues that have an effect on wildlife as well as a means by which to measure attitudes toward wildlife issues. Space does not permit all responses to be reproduced here. It is fair to say that **we all need to work further on educating public officials about the impact of growth on wildlife.** However all those who responded showed an **awareness of the need for a local refuge,** an encouraging sign. If you are interested in knowing how particular persons responded, please call John Schick at 464-7083 and he will gladly discuss the questionnaires with you and provide copies if you wish.

PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIR

This annual gift sale will be held on Friday & Saturday, December 1 and 2 at the First Unitarian Church, 2737 Pacific Avenue in Stockton. Hours are: Friday 12-6 and Saturday 10-6. This event features gifts that promote peace, justice, and a healthy environment..

CLOCKS

GIFTS



These beautiful **wildlife clocks** in several styles come attractively boxed and make excellent gifts; a great bargain this season! You've seen them at museum gifts stores for more, but our price on the perfect clocks is \$35. Seconds, with slight imperfections, sell for only \$16.95. Stockton Audubon Society receives 15% of what we sell. To order these great gifts, call Kathy Schick at 464-7083.

LOCAL CONSERVATION - NEWS

Brovelli Woods, approved by the state's voters to be bought with state Proposition 70 (1988) but purchased by major developers instead, is now proposed for development.

The developer's name is **Catwil Corporation**, and their request at this point is to change the zoning (which currently allows 21 homes to one which would allow over 80 homes) and cancel the Williamson Act contracts. They have already removed what appear to be over 100 mature oak trees from the dense woods for part of their proposed private golf course. The Audubon board opposes both the zoning change and the Williamson Act contract cancellations, and we will have to press hard to get mitigations to save what remains of this lush riparian woods for wildlife habitat as these folks get permits to finish the golf course and build the zoned number of homes.

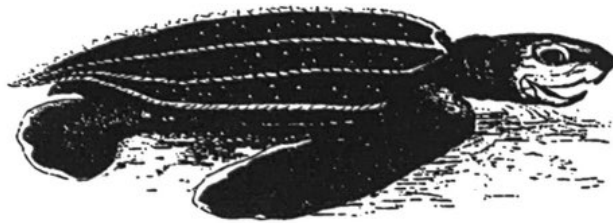
Public meetings on the new **San Joaquin County General Plan** including the proposed **Tree Ordinance** have been continued to Monday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. at 1868 East Hazelton. We will need a lot of active support and Auduboners' attendance at all public meetings on this issue in order to get the tree ordinance adopted.

Upcoming meetings of conservationists from several groups and officials will be focusing on mitigation banking to save Swainson's Hawks. Projects currently involved are **Spanos Park**, Harbor Cove, and A & M Farms. Another meeting will explore the possibility of developing a **Mokelumne River Parkway** similar to the American River Parkway. A big "THANK YOU" to our president **Vic Wykoff** who arranged paid newspaper advertisements offering free Valley Oak acorns and directions for planting them. After sending them acorns, he received letters from two Stockton City Council members expressing support for a city tree ordinance. Our conservation committee welcomes help; call Waldo Holt (462-4438).

JOINT VENTURE HELPS VALLEY WINTERING WATERFOWL

National Audubon Society has joined with 7 other organizations to help fund and promote a program which will reimburse farmers for assisting wintering waterfowl. The program is called the **Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture** and pays farmers to (1) defer fall tillage of harvested fields, leaving wildlife food supplies, until spring -\$10 per acre, (2) flood harvested fields through the winter -\$10 per acre plus water costs, and (3) establish dense cover crops, for nesting birds, on idle fields -\$10 per acre.

Other private groups involved in the coalition venture are the California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, and Waterfowl Habitat Owners Alliance. Both the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are also involved. For its first year, the venture plans to encompass 6,000 acres, a significant aid to waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway.



BOYCOTT SHRIMP - SAVE SEA TURTLES

After Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher suspended newly instituted regulations for

American shrimpers late July, the National Audubon Society called for a nationwide consumer boycott — the 2nd boycott in NAS' 87 year history — of shrimp and shrimp products. The new regulations, the result of ten years of research and negotiation, required shrimpers to attach turtle excluder devices (TEDs) to their nets to prevent the accidental drownings of endangered sea turtles. TEDs can cost as little as \$25 and virtually eliminate the possibility of catching and drowning a sea turtle in a shrimp net.

By caving in to Texas and Louisiana shrimpers' protests at the height of the shrimping season and illegally suspending enforcement of the new legislation, Mosbacher has assured the drownings of thousands of threatened and endangered sea turtles. Drowning in shrimp nets is the principal cause of death for the Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, leatherback, hawksbill, and green turtles, killing 11,000 each year.

The reauthorized Endangered Species Act passed in September of 1988 required that all shrimpers use TEDs by May 1, 1989. After weeks of "relaxed enforcement" by Mosbacher in response to heavy lobbying, shrimpers began violent demonstrations in late July, blockading ports and threatening Coast Guard and shrimpers using TEDs. Mosbacher's response was to suspend the regulation. National Audubon Society took Mosbacher to court and he was told that he must reinstate or replace the regulations. He replaced TED requirements with the unenforceable requirement that shrimpers inspect their nets every 105 minutes. By 105 minutes over 25% of the larger sea turtles will have drowned and all of the smaller, highly endangered Kemp's ridley.

The boycott will remain in effect until the Commerce secretary reinstates the TED regulations and shrimpers actually start using the devices. **PLEASE DO NOT EAT OR BUY SHRIMP OR SHRIMP PRODUCTS** until then, tell your friends about the boycott, and write the president or your congressman asking that the law be enforced.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

On November 18th, Lodi Lake will be the setting for a workshop on Project Learning Tree from 10:30 to 5:00. This nature program includes a great manual with over 80 nature activities for educators, covered in the \$3.50 registration cost. To register call Kathy Bell (369-7708) before November 10.

Send news items and comments to Kathy Schick 940 N. Argonaut, Stockton, CA. 95203 or call them in to Kathy at 464-7083 by December 20th for the next issue.

November-December Calendar

Saturday, November 4, field trip to **WOODBIDGE ROAD** meets at the Mobil Station (15 and Thornton Rd) at 8 a.m. Leaders Arvil & Ellen Parker 916-775-1029.

Saturday, November 11, monthly census at **COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE** will carpool from John Schick's home at 7:30 a.m. (464-7083).

Tuesday, November 14, general meeting at **HAGGIN MUSEUM** features David Yee on "Introduction to Birds of San Joaquin County" at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21, board meeting at 7:30 p.m.; call John Blades (473-7073).

Saturday, November 18, field trip to **WOODBIDGE ROAD** will meet at the front steps of the Haggin Museum at 9:00 a.m. (951-1526)

Saturday, December 2, field trip to **Sewer Pond Loop** to see rare gulls, etc., will meet at the Stockton Sewer Ponds at 9:00 a.m. led by Terry Ronneberg (835-7847).

Tuesday, December 12, general meeting at **HAGGIN MUSEUM** will feature David Yee and Dick Filson with a slide show of "Bird Field Marks..." at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16, **STOCKTON Area Christmas Bird Count** will be organized by David Yee (951-1526).

Saturday, December 30, **BELLOTA Area Christmas Bird Count** will be organized by Dick Filson (466-8414).

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

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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