



THE HOOT OWL

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Calendar



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1990

VOL 28 #6

SAT NOV. 10 Lodi Lake Field Trip. This will be a short (1-2 hr) trip especially for kids and parents. Novices are encouraged. We'll focus on some of the easier to see and identify residents of this local "hot spot". Meet Nancy Ballot (465-9461) at 8:30 on Laurel St. adjacent to the Park.

Sat NOV 10. Cosumnes River Monthly Census. Call J Schick 464-7083.

TUE NOV 13. SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON MEETING; RAPTOR REHABILITATION

Presented by the Crumps, who have for years been repairing hawks and owls and returning them to the wilds. They will bring one of the birds to show us. Always an excellent program. 7:30pm United Methodist Church, just across Pacific from U.O.P. Good parking, bring a friend to this uplifting meeting.

Sat. Nov. 17 Woodbridge Road/Staten Is. Cranes and waterfowl of all types will be seen. Meet at the Woodbridge Road parking, viewing area at 9am. Call David Yee for more information. Note: This will be a joint trip with Santa Clara Audubon.

Tue. Nov. 27. Audubon Board Meeting: Home of John Blades. 473-7073.

Sun. Dec. 2. Lodi Lake/Lodi Sewage Ponds. Waldo Holt (462-4438) will lead this pre-count trip to 2 major areas of interest to local birders. Meet at 8am on Laurel St. adjacent to the Park in Lodi.

Sat. Dec. 8. Cosumnes River Monthly Census Call J Schick 464-7083

Sat. Dec. 15. STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Come join us in the biggest and "funnest" bird outing sponsored by the Audubon Society. This count has developed the reputation of being one of the finest in the Central Valley and has a very long bird list to back up that reputation. Birders of all ages and abilities are invited and encouraged to participate. The results contribute to one of the largest data bases on bird population dynamics in the world; locally, the results are used to show the impact of human activity on the environment. So, come and join in the fun. Call David Yee for details and to sign up...951-1526.

SATURDAY DEC. 29. WALLACE-BELLOTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

Similar to the Stockton count except for its location in the foothills to the east of town where the Eagles, Bluebirds, and Lewis' Woodpeckers roam. It is nice to get up above the fog at this time of year. If you would like details call George Welch. 477-9618. (Or sign up for either count at Nov. meeting)

JANUARY 1991. SAN JOAQUIN (STOCKTON) AUDUBON. GOLDEN (50th) ANNIVERSARY. Watch for details in your Jan-Feb. Hoot-Owl. Call John Schick 464-7083 or John Blades 473-7073 for information.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

HELP CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

You can help 254 endangered California wildlife species by filling in LINE 45 on your State Tax Return. Any amount will help the Department of Fish and Game protect these species. Our population is expanding and our native plant and animal species are being pushed to the brink of extinction.

Average contributions have been small, but they all add up to help these species. In the 1987-1988 fiscal year alone, this funded projects for no fewer than 50 species.

Contributions are fully deductible on BOTH State and Federal returns.

RANCHER REWARDED

Rancher-conservationist Alberta Lewallen was recently recognized by the American Farmland Trust for her efforts to preserve both farmland and wildlife.

She placed 10,000 acres of family ranch land into conservation easements with the California Department of Fish and Game. She created new provisions in the easement so that neighboring parcels of land can be used compatibly for both wildlife habitat AND farming.

Lewallen also was successful in persuading Calaveras County not to locate a hazardous waste dump near her property because of the possible danger to eagles and other wildlife. We are proud to have her as a member of Stockton Audubon.

FIELD BOTANY

Botany 12

INSTRUCTOR: S. STOCKING



Spring Semester
Delta College

3 Units 2 Field Trips

8-22, Willow Flycatcher, LL by Waldo Holt. also 2 Hutton's Vireo, 5 Warbling Vireo, 2 Nashville War., 15 Yellow Warb, a MacGills Warb. and 15 W. Tanagers at LL by D.Yee.
8-27, 4 Baird's Sand. at TSP and 8-28 a Red-br Nuthatch at LL. 9-4 a single Solitary Vireo at Louis Park and a Snowy Plover at SSP
9-10, 2 Savannah Sparrow at LSP 9-11 a Bendire's Thrasher at Acampo, a Vaux' Swift at LL, and 2 Bl-w Teal at SSP. Also on 9-11 an Imm. Bald Eagle and Lewis Woodpeckers at Salt Springs by R. Chambers. 9-16 a Painopepla on Stanislaus River at Mohler Rd. 9-16. a Monk Parakeet in N. Stockton by L. Pederson. 9-18 100 Sand Crane and a Dunlin at Terminous. 9-20 a L.Yellowlegs, 5 c. Snipe & a Pectoral Sand at Terminous. 9-20 S.Stocking & several witnesses observed a Red-naped Sapsucker in his plane tree, Sktn. 9-21 a Clark's Grebe at SSP, 9-22 a Blue-gr. Onatcatcher & a N. Waterthrush at Stan. R. & Mohler Rd. by David Yee & Waldo Holt. on 9-22 R.Lawson and associates observed Sora & Virginia Rail, & Pectoral Sand. at Limontour Spit of Pt.Reyes N.S. 9-23 Screech Owls were observed in Stockton by Sara Russell. 9-24 a Stilt Sand. observed on Staten Is by Gil Ewing. 9-24 R.Chambers ob a Golden Eagle at Patter-son Pass Rd & Western Bluebirds at Santa Nella. 9-25 Waldo ob. 25 Swainson Hawks at Staten Is. 9-27 a Bl-ch Hummer at Lodi Lake. 9-29 5 Wh-fr. Geese, a Peregrine Fal.& a Red Phalarope at Staten Is by David & Waldo & 2 L. G-Plover at LSP by David. 9-30 an Imm Goshakl at Donner Lake by S.&L.Stocking 10-3 a Winter Wren at L.L. 10-10 an Imm. Golden Eagle at Westly & I-5 by R.Chambers. 10-13 300-400 Surf Scoters at Tomales Bay by R. Lawson. 10-13 2 Chest-b. Chickadee & a Slate-c Junco on Bald Mt. in s.w. S.J. Co by Terry Ronneberg & W.Holt. 10-16, 4 Fox Sparrow in yard, N. Greenwood, Stockton 10-17, Winter Wren, Calaveras Big Trees, N.Grove, S.Stocking & 70 Biology Students. 10-20 Wh-winged Scoter with Surf Scoters Tomales Bay, R. Lawson. 10-23 Bl-backed Woodpeckers in S.Grove Calaveras Big Trees by Neil Kerr.
Observations by David Yee when not otherwise credited. LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds and SSP are Stockton Sewage Ponds. LL is Lodi Lake. TSP must be Tracy Sewage Ponds.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

SWAINSON'S SURVEY

A survey of Swainson's Hawks in the Stockton area was sponsored by the San Joaquin Audubon Society during 1990. This report is the result of many hours of observations by Audubon Society members and other interested persons.

The Swainson Hawks are a species of special concern which must be considered when any new developments are proposed. For this reason its presence in the rapidly growing Stockton area is of great interest.

Swainson's Hawks winter in the pampus area of South America. March 7 was the first date of sighting of returning hawks in the Stockton area. Nesting territories were located by searching records, through field work, and through the use of information provided by observers. July 16 was the latest sighting of a nestling still in the nest. The latest sighting of Swainson's Hawks in Fall migration was September 29.

Each nesting territory was visited several (3-5) times a month from March through July. Nesting territories that did not achieve breeding success due to the inability to establish a nest may have received the most attention from observers. Many attempts were made to discover active nests in those nesting territories. Care was taken to ascertain if a nesting territory had its own pair of adult hawks to avoid confusion with individuals from neighboring nesting territories. 22 nesting territories were discovered and monitored within the 185 square mile city of Stockton sphere of influence area. It should not be assumed that these are the only nesting territories in this area. It is possible that there are some nesting territories not discovered or accounted for in this report.

Adult hawks were seen in courtship and nest building in March and April. They were seen brooding eggs in April and May. Nestlings were observed growing in size and plumage in May, June and July. When a nestling that had appeared ready to take flight was, at the next observing opportunity, no longer seen on the nest then that nestling was presumed to have fully fledged. The tracking of post-breeding groups, once they were no longer closely associated with a nest, was beyond the limits of these observations.

The chances of an immature bird surviving and returning from its first years migration are considered quite low. Three such immatures were thought to have been identified but their activities and requirements were not investigated during this study.

Correlating identifiable pairs with particular foraging areas not adjacent to the nest site was, for the most part, not feasible. Our observations do confirm the Swainson's Hawk's known preference for hunting in alfalfa and other hay crops, fallow fields, pasture, grassland, and low growing crops. Small rodents were the only prey species observed. Ten hawks were observed in mid-June to be foraging at a relatively recently harvested sugar beet field. One foraging group of 20-25 was observed circling low heading west over highway 99 near Morada in mid June. This group was thought to be made up of pre-breeding and failed-breeding individuals. Several groups of 5 to 30 individuals were reported foraging in the air and on the ground throughout the month of September. These groups were foraging in harvested alfalfa, corn, and tomatoe fields. It is thought that they are individuals from the north migrating through this area.

INFORMATION SUMMARY;

- 1) 22 nesting territories
- 2) 11 sites with fledged young
- 3) 25 fledged birds
- 4) 11 pair not successful
- 5) 2 pair not observed to return
- 6) 5 pair failed to establish a nest
- 7) 4 pair abandoned nest
- 8) 19 territories now, or in the near future will be negatively impacted by urbanization.
- 9) 73% of nest trees are Valley Oak

Prepared by Waldo Holt, Conservation Chair



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Six local birders set off early on September 29 to check some Mokelumne River habitats. We stopped first at Stillman McGee Co. Park near Clements. This is a very active area for birds; human visitors at this time of year are few. Sightings included 4 spp. of woodpeckers, a willow flycatcher, California towhee, Bewick's wren, phainopepla, some Lincoln's sparrows, and 5 species of warblers (including a black-throated Gray and a MacGillivray's).

By the time we got to Mokelumne River Park (formerly John Van Assen Co. Park), it was quite warm and lots of local anglers had arrived. We located the heron/egret rookery, currently inactive, but now we'll know where to check in the spring. There was little bird activity, but we did see a spotted sandpiper and a river otter.

Jim Rowth reporting.

ANCIENT FORESTS; PROPOSITION 130

It is sad that so many are most interested in short term profits, so often at the expense of our environment. Audubon supports 130, but the confusion caused by the money of the opponents may defeat it. Over 100 other environmental groups also support 130 as does the California State Parks Rangers Assn. and the California Teachers Assn. It is opposed by the big lumber companies.

Protection is not the problem. Studies in both the northwest and in California have shown that it is automation that is cutting the jobs and that exports of raw logs and paper chips isn't helping much either!

Forests Forever (Prop 130) bans clear-cutting on state and private forestland in California. It allows companies to cut timber only as fast as the trees grow back, so that forests will last for generations. \$710 mill in bonds will buy some of the last unprotected ancient forests, and \$32 mill would be spent to retrain workers whose jobs may be cut.

There are great biological values to ancient forests including their diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level. They are not just "interesting", they are essential to the health of the environment. Their loss is not just a concern, it is a crisis.

BIG GREEN OR BROWN?

Are you getting confused? If so the opposition to Proposition 128 is successful. To oppose 128 they used paid signature gatherers to get 135 on the ballot. They are also spending millions to confuse the voting public into thinking that it will do things which it won't and cost more than it will.

This would ban cancer-causing pesticides. These are proven carcinogens or those which are known to cause birth defects. What is more, to phase these out over the 5 to 8 year period allowed would have little effect on pesticide use in general. These 20 only amount to 1.5% of pesticides used on grapes and 2% of those used on almonds. For other crops the situation is similar. According to U.C. only 2 of these do not now have replacements which are not carcinogens.

The ban on CFCs would only speed up the ban which would eventually occur. But this could easily be done and there are now good replacements for these refrigerants.

This would give us an adequate emergency program to respond to oil spills which we do not now have. Read carefully who is behind both propositions.

Big Brown would stick us with the cost of pesticide regulation, now paid by the industry and weaken farworker protection. Study these two carefully.

Stockton Audubon Society

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473-7073

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Schick 464-7083

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465-9461

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462-7512

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☐ Joint membership in the National Audubon Society and the Stockton Audubon Society includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hood 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.

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