



# THE HOOT OWL

## STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 24 #5

### Calendar



Sept-Oct '86

- Tuesday Sept. 9 STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. 7:30 meeting in Classroom 6, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Dan Taylor, the Western Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society will discuss our National Conservation Directions: Importance to Wildlife of Wetlands, Riparian Forests and Old Growth Forests.
- Saturday Sept. 13 Field Trip: Oak Grove Park, White Slough Area. These areas are very productive during migration. Land, shore and marsh birds are to be expected. Meet at the Oak Grove Park at 8:00am. Call leader Bob Phillips (951-9757) for information.
- Monday Sept 15. Stockton Audubon Board Meeting at the home of our President George Welch. Call him for information: 477-9618.
- Saturday Sept 27 Field Trip: McGurk Ranch. This is a fine stretch of riparian habitat along the Calaveras River in the foothills. It's private property, relatively undisturbed and open for us. Migrants should abound. Meet leader George Welch at Burns Tower on the U.O.P. Campus at 7:00 to carpool. Call him at 477-9618.
- Saturday Oct. 4 Field Trip: Caswell State Park. Situated on the Stanislaus River, Caswell harbors perhaps the finest stretch of Oak Woodland & Riparian habitat left in the county. Field Trips to the park are productive at any time, but fall is the best. Join Terry Ronneburg as he shows us the many species of migrants and newly arrived winter visitors. Meet Terry at the entrance to the park at 8:00am. (His number, Tracy, 835-7847)
- Tuesday Oct. 14 STOCKTON AUDUBON MEETING. Our potluck will be at 6:30, bring your service and a favorite dish to share. After the memorable repast, Tim Manolis will present an illustrated program on the birds and wildlife of Trinidad and Tobago. Classroom #6, United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave.
- Fri through Sun Oct 17-19. Bolinas-Pt Reyes Field Trip. Our annual trip to a most lovely area includes excellent waterbirds at Bolinas Lagoon, a visit to PRBO's bird banding station at Palomarin and chasing rare vagrant birds at Pt Reyes. Spaces are limited at the wonderful accomodations provided by Ann Mullin, so make your reservations early. Call her: 957-3366.
- Saturday Nov. 1 Field Trip: Woodbridge Road. Arvil and Ellen Parker will lead us to one of their favorite areas to observe the Sandhill Cranes, burrowing owls, Rough-legged Hawks and many others. They will also pay a visit to the newly established Woodbridge Ecological Reserve where waterfowl and shorebirds abound. Meet the Parkers at 8:00am in the shopping center at the Thornton turnoff from I-5. Further info.: (916) 775-1029.



## AUDUBONERS JOIN XERCES BUTTERFLY COUNT

When the Stockton Area Butterfly Count was first set up in 1975, it was run by county personnel. This annual Fourth of July count had not been run in the past few years as county personnel were cut back and other interferences (such as the Med Fly) hindered counting butterflies. The nation-wide count is sponsored by the Xerces Society and encourages participation by amateurs in the community. So on July 2, 1986, several Audubon members joined a few county employees and a few other interested amateurs to revive this annual count.

At noon that Wednesday Auduboners Lois Davis, Dan and Lynne Terry, and Jeff and Kathy Schick, joined with other amateur butterfly enthusiasts in the Nature Center at Oak Grove. There Dr. Kirby Brown, entomologist for the County Agricultural Commissioner and Xerces Society member, showed us his display of the thirty most common butterflies in the County and gave us some pointers on the field marks. We sighted our first butterfly of the count in the Atrium there--an Anise Swallowtail. After this we walked on the trails to find some very common butterflies-- the Cabbage Whites and yellow Alfalfas-- and Monarchs including one Monarch caterpillar.

The second park we censused was the new Woodbridge Regional Park. There we found twenty species of butterflies including the large ones such as Pipevine Swallowtail, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak, Satyr Anglewings, medium-sized ones such as Buckeyes, Painted Ladies, West Coast Ladies, and small ones such as Purplish Coppers, Common Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed Blues and Sooty Wings. The shade of this riparian habitat was most welcome and we even took a break to sample a large bush of ripe blackberries. By then the temperature was increasing and our group of counters was tired so we did not press on to the next two parks in our count area, Lodi Lake Wilderness Area and Micke Grove. We felt pleased with a species total of twenty in a three-hour period.

The Xerces Society, named for the extinct Xerces Blue butterfly which lived in the San Francisco area, is dedicated to protecting endangered invertebrate species. They sponsor the annual Fourth of July count nation-wide as sort of an answer to the Christmas Bird Count. Now that the Stockton Count is revived we hope to have more Auduboners join us next July for the 1987 count. Next year we hope to begin in the morning so that we'll have time and energy to census more parks before the heat of the afternoon. See the Hoot Owl next spring and summer for more details.

-Kathy Schick

## BOOK REVIEW OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY HANDBOOK FOR BUTTERFLY WATCHERS

Although this excellent book by Robert Michael Pyle, founder of the Xerces Society, came out over a year ago, I only saw it recently and am writing this for any of you who have not yet seen it. Although it lacks the color photographs of the Audubon Society's Field Guide to the Butterflies by the same author, this book can give the reader a wealth of information on where to look for butterflies and how to find, identify, and enjoy them. There are chapters on rearing (caterpillars) and gardening for butterflies. It is available at the Stockton Public Library, call number 595.789 PYL.

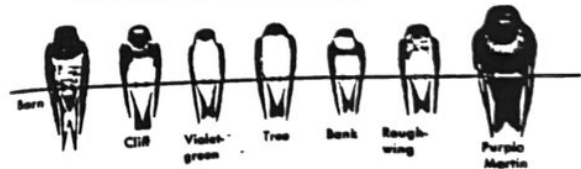
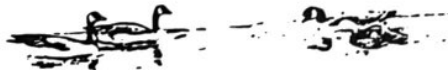
- Kathy Schick

# BIRDS

Except as noted all sightings are by David Yee.

SSP= Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL= Lodi Lake,  
CH= Corral Hollow Road, LSP= Lodi Sewage Ponds,  
OGP= Oak Grove Park. K.C.N.P.= Kings Canyon N.P.

6-27 pair Lazuli Buntings, 3 Blue Grosbeak and 4 West Wood Pewee at the confluence of the S.J. and Stanislaus Rivers. 6-27 a Black Tern at Stockton Sewage Ponds. 7-1 a West. Tanager at LL and 2 Wilson's Phal at LSP. 7-2 4 Marbled Godwits and a Laughing Gull at SSP (The Gull is the first recorded in this valley, congratulations David!) 7-3 a Snowy Plover at SSP; 7-7 a Short-billed Dowitcher and 4 Bank Swallow at LSP. 7-9 a Red-necked Phalarope at LSP. 7-14 a West. Flycatcher and a male Rosebreasted Grosbeak at LL and a Lesser Yellowlegs at LSP. 7-15 a Hutton's Vireo and 2 Warbling Vireo at LL. On July 22 Mike Sallady observed a Golden Eagle and a Junco feeding Cowbird young at Blue Lakes near Carson Pass. 7-28 a Whimbrel at SSP.; 7-29 a White-faced Ibis at LSP. Our group on the Stockton Audubon field trip to the Carson Pass area observed, among other things the following: Lincoln Sparrow, Rufous Hummers, Cassins Finch, R.B.Sapsucker, various warblers and a young Red-winged Blackbird in the pond at Carson Spur. All of that on Aug. 1. 8-5 a Nashville Warbler at LL along with 5 Wilson's Warblers. Also on 8-5 Steve Stocking and Rich Boubelik observed Common Nighthawks over the Courthouse in Independence, Inyo Co. 8-7 a MacGillivray's Warbler and three Hooded Orioles visited David and Sue Yee at their residence. On the same day there were 2 Willets at the LSPs. On 8-7 Stocking and Boubelik observed Rosy Finch on Glenn Pass KCNP and Ravens and Rufous Hummers at Rae Lakes in KCNP. 8-8 the same observed a Dipper at the Keasarge Lakes and Ravens on Keasarge Pass (11,825) in KCNP. This space believes that as the bear follow the backpackers to popular high elevation areas, the Ravens follow to clean up after the bear. 20 years ago both bear and Ravens were rare at these high elevations, now they are common. On 8-7 there was also a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the LSP. On 8-8 there were both 2 Yellow Warblers and 2 Black-th Gray Warblers at LL. On 8-13 S and K Stocking observed Pinyon Jays at the Bristlecone area in the White Mountains and on 8-14 they observed a N. Harrier at the south Tufa area of Mono Lake. 8-14 also found a Calliope Hummer and a Lewis' Woodpecker at LL. On 8-16 there were 25 West Grebe, 11 Canada Geese & a Bald Eagle at Camanche. 8-22 found an Osprey, a Gray Flycatcher and 15 Cedar Waxwings at LL. On 8-22 S. Stocking and J. Sellers observed a Williamson's Sapsucker and a Hermit Warbler at Lost Lake, K.C.N.P. On 8-23 S Stocking observed Stilts in a flooded field a mile south of Merced on Hiway 99. 8-23 found David and a female Rose-br Grosbeak at LL.



## STOCKTON AUDUBON ACQUIRES "TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING"

Arnold Small's 90 minute videotape on birding is the latest addition to Stockton Audubon Society's educational resource library. The beginning of this video shows a number of birds without naming them. It is an excellent exercise in identification even for the advanced birder. (And there is a written list included to check your identifications.) In the middle of the tape is a fifteen minute session on binoculars--choosing, focusing, and caring for them. This is highly recommended for all birders especially anyone contemplating buying new ones. The videotape is a standard VHS format. Anyone wishing to borrow and view this should contact Ann Mullin (957-3366).