



# THE HOOT OWL

## STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

September-October 1989

### Editorial

I, Kathy Schick, am "substitute editor" of *The Hoot Owl* while our regular editor Steve Stocking is on sabbatical for the next six months. This job includes the challenging task of trying to squeeze a whole summer's worth of news into two small double-sided pages and I have made some layout changes to save space.

Don't despair that the calendar is missing as you stare at this page. Our **calendar for September and October can be found on page 4**. A calendar for the next six months' meeting programs and other Audubon exhibit events at the Haggin Museum can be found at the bottom of page 3. Both of these calendars are designed to be clipped and taped/pinned/stapled to your wall/calendar/bulletin board, just as you may already have used the front page calendars.

Also, note that you can find a list of this year's officers and their telephone numbers at the bottom left of page 4. I hope the new format does not cause any of you undue difficulty in finding and reading any articles. Feel free to send me news items and comments (940 N. Argonaut, Stockton, CA. 95203) and/or call in your news items to me (464-7083) by October 20, 1989, for the next issue.

*-Kathy Schick, Substitute Editor*

### September Meeting -Haggin

Our September meeting will start our series of monthly Stockton Audubon meetings to be held at the Haggin Museum, 1201 North Pershing Avenue at 7:30 PM. The program will feature Jim Eastep, wildlife biologist, showing slides and relating the results of his study of the valley's threatened Swainson's Hawks. Ken Nieland, Director of Micke Grove Zoo, will be on hand to display the zoo's captive Swainson's Hawk.

You may wish to come early so that you have time to view the museum's special Audubon chromolithographs exhibit prior to the meeting. Members of the Stockton Audubon board worked with the Haggin Museum and the Stockton Public Library to help select the 33 (from over 100) lithographs to be displayed, choosing those depicting local birds. This rare "volume" *Birds of America* was purchased by the library in 1894 and is one of the few to remain intact - one of Stockton's jewels.

Please see the detachable schedule (on page 3) of our meetings and other exciting events to be held at the Haggin Museum during this exhibit, through February 25, 1990.

### SUMMER BIRDS:



David Yee reports 6-12 1 Orange-crowned Warbler 2 prs Blue Grosbeaks 2 prs Bullock's Orioles at WS: 6-13 1 Semipalmated Plover SSP: 6-14 1 Osprey and 1 Pacific-slope Flycatcher LL: 6/16 2 Bonie Gull & 6/20 5 Bank Swallow LSP: 6/21 pr. Readhead & 6/27 1 Spotted Sandpiper 1 Wilson's Phalarope at SSP. 7/1 1 Prairie Falcon 1 Says Phoebe & 6 Western Bluebird CH: 7/6 1 Oregon Junco LL. 1 Clark's Grebe grounded on Hammer Lane: 7/11 1 Black-chinned Hummingbird at residence & 1 Marbled Godwit SSP: 7/21 8 Whimbrel SSP: 7/25 1 Franklin's Gull LSP: 7/28 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper LSP, 4 Western Grebe, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 10 Willet & 6 Red-necked Phalarope SSP: 7/29 Lewis' Woodpecker at Caswell. 8/1 1 Nashville Warbler 2 Black-throated Gray Warbler 3 Hooded Oriole LL: 8/3 1 Canvasback 1 Snowy Plover SSP: 8/7 2 White Pelican 3 Shoveler SSP: 8/8 15 Lesser Yellowlegs 1 Short-billed Dowitcher near Turner Cut: 8/9 1 Black Tern LSP: 8/18 10 Wilson's Warbler 15 Western Tanager SSP: 8/24 32 White Ibis LSP: 8/25 15 Cedar Waxwing LL.

Josh Horner reports 8/11 1 MacGillivray's Warbler LL: Waldo Holt saw 8/28 1 Willow Flycatcher at the Calaveras River: Sara Russell reports 8/18 1 Western Tanager in Stockton.

John Schick reports seeing Lazuli Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Swainson's Hawks, Western Tanagers and Wrentits on the Cosumnes River Preserve in both the July and August censuses.

LL= Lodi Lake, SSP= Stockton Sewer Ponds, LSP= Lodi Sewer Ponds, CH= Corral Hollow.

### New Checklist Available

David Yee has been diligently recording sightings for over ten years to update a *Field Checklist of the Birds of San Joaquin County*. (The last checklist from the 1950's was quite outdated.) You can get a copy at the Haggin Museum, Audubon meetings, or from David. The county list is a gold color, not to be confused with the yellow *Checklist for Birds of Cosumnes River Preserve* by John Schick, also available.

## August Monterey Trip

The highlight of our Monterey weekend on August 26-27? That's a toughie. We started the trip with a bang as we ventured to Pescadero Marsh on Saturday morning for a Bar-tailed Godwit and found it there among a wide assortment of other shorebirds. Setting sail on the boat on Sunday, one knew it was going to be a heart-stopper as the seas were calm and weather perfect. The elusive Minke Whale was found not 30 minutes into the trip and drew rave reviews but was totally overshadowed by the 7 or 8 magnificent Blue Whales that were often just a stone's throw away. For some, the spectacular views of 6 Xanto's Murrelets and 2 Tufted Puffins rated extremely high, but could they really compare with the Long-tailed Jaeger that hovered directly over the boat allowing all to see its finer details? At that point the highlight for me was hearing that one corner of the boat's cabin had over 25 empty film boxes piled into it - an indication of a great trip. But that was before the Laysan Albatross flew port side and was chummed in to the back of the boat whereupon the sound of advancing film and motorwinds could be heard above the screaming frenzy of excited nature-lovers. It was a great trip - perhaps our best ever. Don't miss the October trip - everyone says then the trips get better.

-David Yee

## Land Utilization Alliance

Last fall the board of the Stockton Audubon Society joined the Land Utilization Alliance (LUA) because we share concerns for preservation and careful planning. However, the board had expressed concern to LUA for some months at LUA's lack of bylaws and the resulting lack of voice for (Audubon's) habitat concerns. At their June meeting, the board voted to suspend our membership in LUA until LUA had bylaws which we could then evaluate. To date no bylaws have been received.



## Nature Guide Available

Tahoma Audubon Society now has a 9th edition of their *Nature Guide* which gives the traveler in the USA and 50 foreign countries ideas of where to look and names and phone numbers of local Auduboners for guidance. Send \$10 (postage included) to Nature Guide, P. O. Box 1015, Tacoma, WA. 98401-1015 (ph.206-952-4640).

## Ski Lifts Threaten Ridge Route

The Ridge Route (Donner Pass the Squaw Valley) is part of the Pacific Crest Trail. This section begins on the old Highway 40 down from Donner Lake. It is crossed by the old Emigrant Trail close to the point where pioneer wagons crested the Sierra in the mid-1800's. The trail continues along the ridge and eventually wanders down to Squaw Valley.

The Sugarbowl development would like to expand by adding an unknown number of ski lifts which would go right through the Pacific Crest Trail. Trees and other vegetation would be removed and this natural habitat lost. The land for these proposed ski lifts belongs to the National Forest Service; Sugarbowl would like to lease it.

National Forest Service land belongs to all of us and there will be an Environmental Impact Statement available sometime this fall. Most effective if sent soon, letters of concern can be addressed to Joanne Robique, Truckee Ranger Station, P.O.Box 399, Truckee, CA. 95734 (916-587-3558).

-Staci Lavergne

## Stockton Butterfly Count Makes Record

Our annual Stockton Audubon Society field trip/Xerces Society Butterfly Count on June 16, 1989, found a record number of butterfly species - 24 in all - for this event. Among those seen were the elusive Great Purple Hairstreak, the secretive California Sister, and the fast-flying Mourning Cloak. We had fifteen participants this year, also a record number for this event. Though the number of species observed was high, the number of individuals seen was very low, possibly due to the continuing drought and some nearby housing construction.

# John Blades is Top Bird-a-Thon Fundraiser

Of all the participants in last spring's Bird-a-Thon, our vice president, John Blades managed to get the greatest number of pledges and see the greatest number of birds bringing the most income to our club from the event. Thank you, John, and all the other participants, *all of whom worked in teams*.

## Docent Classes

Oak Grove Docents will host first an orientation then two fall Docent Training Classes on successive Sunday afternoons: October 15 (2-2:30) & October 22 and 29 (12-4). Call Charlton at Oak Grove (Thurs/Fri 10-4) at 953-8814 for more information.

# Something to watch for... Audubon Raffle

Later this year, the Stockton Audubon Society will be holding a raffle to raise money to support our local chapter. First prize will be a framed, signed and numbered limited-edition print, "Pintails-Reflections" by Sherrie Russell, whose waterfowl art has created much recent enthusiasm. Her paintings have won duck stamp competitions in three states, California (1986), Nevada (1987), and Arizona (1988). In addition, one of her works was selected by Ducks Unlimited as its 1985 National Sponsor Dinner Print. "Pintails-Reflections" depicts an elegant pair of Northern Pintail Ducks, winter visitors to our San Joaquin Valley area. The framed print measures 16" x 30" and is valued at \$175. Stockton Audubon Society wishes to thank Artistic Touch Gallery in Davis, California, for their generous donation of the print. Raffle tickets are \$2 each and may be purchased from Josh Horner (474-0175). More information to come in the next *Hoot Owl*.

-Joshua Horner

## Great Fall Field Trips

Check out our calendar of fall trips: observe the fall passage of landbirds at Lodi Lake and (with Waldo's help) to find the little critters among the treetops. Our Monterey Bay field trip in October is an opportunity for those who missed August's spectacular trip. It will include walking along Elkhorn Slough and Carmel River then taking to sea and seeing pelagic species that venture into the bay in late fall. To reserve send your check (made out to David Yee) to him at 2930 Driftwood Place #39, Stockton 95207. Later in October join us at McGurk Ranch viewing fine riparian habitat along the Calaveras River in the eastern part of the county to look for returning winter birds as well as fall ones. For more information call David 951-1526

## Brookside Wetlands

You may have noticed that local developer and Stockton Audubon member Fritz Grupe, Jr., included a 50 acre wetlands area and a 50 acre buffer as part of his proposed Brookside development. This came about due to many hours of hard work by Sue and David Yee and the willing cooperation of Mr. Grupe and his assistant Kevin Huber *starting last fall* proposing an area greater than the required wetlands mitigation. Thanks to Sue, David, Kevin, and Fritz for their work in setting aside an area for wildlife within a planned development.

## AUDUBON & OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE HAGGIN MUSEUM 1989-1990

- Between September of 1989 to February of 1990, the regular general meetings of the Stockton Audubon Society will be held at The Haggin Museum, 1201 North Pershing Avenue, Stockton, California.
- Audubon general meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except January. *Other programs of interest are marked in italics.*
- Tuesday, September 12, 1989, 7:30 p.m.**  
Jim Eastep, wildlife biologist, "The San Joaquin Valley's Threatened Swainson's Hawks."
- Saturday, September 23, 1989, 2:30-4:00 p.m.**  
*Dick Filson, Audubon member/photographer, "The Dos and Don'ts of Bird Photography."*
- Wednesday, September 27, 1989, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
*Gary Kunz, State Librarian, "Collecting Rare Books and Prints."*
- Sunday, October 8, 1989, 2:30-4:00 p.m.**  
*Page Stegner, naturalist/author, "Nature and Conservation."*
- Tuesday, October 10, 1989, 7:30 p.m.**  
Joe Medeiros, Great Valley Museum, "Natural History of the Great Valley."
- Saturday, November 4, 1989, 2:30-4:00 p.m.**  
*Tom Gngs, Nature Conservancy biologist, "The Cosumnes River Preserve."*
- Tuesday, November 14, 1989, 7:30 p.m.**  
David Yee, "Introduction to Birds of San Joaquin County."
- Saturday, November 18, 1989, 9:00 a.m.**  
David Yee will lead a special birdwatching field trip from 9:00 AM to noon. Gather at the front entrance to the Haggin Museum to meet and carpool.
- Tuesday, December 12, 1989, 7:30 p.m.**  
Audubon board members, "Bird Field Marks for Species Identification."
- Saturday, January 13, 1990, 2:30-4:00 p.m.**  
*California Waterfowl Association Lecture*
- Tuesday, January 23, 1990, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
*Kay Fraser, Midge Grove Zoo Curator, "The Zoo's Role in Species Survival Plans."*
- Tuesday, February 13, 1990, 7:30 p.m.**  
Keith Hansen, artist, "California Coastal Birds of the Farallon Islands."

## September - October Calendar

- Saturday, September 9, CRP bird census at 7:30 a.m.: John Schick 464-7083.
- Tuesday, September 12, monthly meeting at Haggin Museum will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Jim Eastep on Swainson's Hawks.
- Saturday, September 16, field trip to MARIN HEADLANDS to observe hawk migration. Meet at Pt. Diablo at 10 a.m. Leader David Yee 951-1526.
- Tuesday, September 19, board meeting at 7:30: John Schick 464-7083.
- Saturday, September 23, Conservation Fair at Oak Grove Park from 10 to 4.
- Sunday, September 24, field trip to LODI LAKE meets on Laurel Avenue at 7:30 a.m. Leader Waldo Holt 462-4438.
- Sat-Sunday, October 7-8, field trip to MONTEREY BAY camping available: \$34.00 reserves your place on the boat. Leader David Yee 951-1526 or 466-3337.
- Tuesday, October 10, monthly meeting at Haggin Museum will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Joe Medieros of the Great Valley Museum (Modesto) on "Natural History of the Great Valley."
- Saturday, October 14, CRP bird census 7:30 a.m.: John Schick 464-7083.
- Saturday, October 28, field trip to McGURK RANCH meets at Burns Tower (UOP) at 7 a.m. Bring a lunch. Leader George Welch 477-9618.
- Saturday, November 4, field trip to WOODBRIDGE ROAD meets at the Mobil Station (I5 and Thornton Rd) at 8 a.m. Leaders Arvil & Ellen Parker 916-775-1029.

## 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  
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STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY  
940 N. Argonaut Street  
Stockton, CA. 95203

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