

San Joaquin Audubon Society



The Hoot Owl Newsletter

August / September / October 2026 Issue



Anna's Hummingbird by Elizabeth Olin

Newsletter Update

By Elizabeth Olin

As we head towards the end of summer, change will soon be in the air. The days will start to grow shorter and chillier, fall migration will delight us with a refreshed wave of bird activity, and the holiday season will be fast upon us.

Here at The Hoot Owl, we are embracing change as we work on a new format to bring you stories, news, and announcements from the San Joaquin Audubon Society. Moving forward, the PDF model will be retired in favor of this email newsletter approach. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue!

We would also like to express heartfelt gratitude to Philip Fiorio, whose vision helped to revive this beloved newsletter over a year ago. As he rotates off The Hoot Owl team, he will be missed.

Grant Proposals

San Joaquin Audubon 2026-2027 Request for Proposals to Promote Environmental Education and Citizen Science

To preserve birds and ecosystems for future generations in San Joaquin County, we must be willing to work toward a better future. San Joaquin Audubon Society (SJAS) provides grant funds for organizations and schools working to conserve our local environment.

We encourage groups to apply that are interested in birding, conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental literacy. Grants are funded for projects located within San Joaquin County.

Grant Submission Period August 15 - October 15.

See [website](#) for additional information.

Rare Bird Sightings

April 1st through June 30th, 2026

By Liz West

It has been a good spring for Calliope Hummingbird sightings. On April 3rd, a Calliope Hummingbird visited Henry Koertzen's hummingbird feeder in Tracy. It continued through May 15th. On April 12th, Jim Gain and Jim Ross photographed a

Calliope Hummingbird at the Heritage Oak feeders. The Heritage Oak Calliope Hummingbird continued through April 13th. Gabriel and Elizabeth Olin also found a Calliope Hummingbird in the Mohler Tract of San Joaquin NWR on April 25th. On May 2nd, Andrew Chesley's bird feeder photographed a Calliope Hummingbird in Stockton.

A San Joaquin Audubon field trip, April 7th, found a Canyon Wren in Kiln Canyon. Canyon Wren has been found there historically but hasn't been spotted there recently.

Jim Gain and Jim Ross photographed a Brewer's Sparrow on Waverley Rd. on April 21st.

Nicole Allison and Steve Abbott reported a Hammond's Flycatcher at Stockton Rural Cemetery May 15th.

On June 10th, Shelly Highsmith photographed the Roseate Spoonbill that has been sighted in multiple locations in central valley in the past. It is probably the individual that was first seen at Kern Water Bank and later showed up along the Pelican trail of San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge.

Jim Gain and Jim Ross found a Least Tern, June 18th, at the Lodi Waste Treatment Plant.

Survey Request

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are conducting a survey to better understand birdwatchers' views on grassland and oak savannah habitat conservation, restoration, and possible ways to support this work in California.

Grasslands and oak savannahs are among California's important and threatened habitats, and many birds that rely on them have declined in recent decades. Whether these habitats are near where you live and bird or farther away, your perspective is still valuable.

Please help us and the birds by taking this survey:

Take the Survey

The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Participation is voluntary and anonymous, and you may stop at any time. Please complete the survey **only once**, even if you receive this invitation from more than one chapter.

This study has been reviewed by the UC Davis Institutional Review Board, IRB ID #2397454-2.

Questions? Contact Roshan Puri at rpuri@ucdavis.edu or Lucia Levers at llevers@ucdavis.edu.

News and Updates

Field Trips

Join the San Joaquin Audubon Society at an upcoming [birding field trip](#)!

Kingsyard Partnership

If you purchase bird feeders from Kingsyard, you will receive a 15% discount and San Joaquin Audubon Society will receive 10%!

Click on the logo below for their website where you can browse, and will hopefully purchase, some of their quality products.

Please use the promo code SJAS15



About

The Hoot Owl Team:

Elizabeth Olin, Henry Koertzen and Srini Raman

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Henry Koertzen, President

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