

Central Sierra Audubon Society's
Sierra Squawker

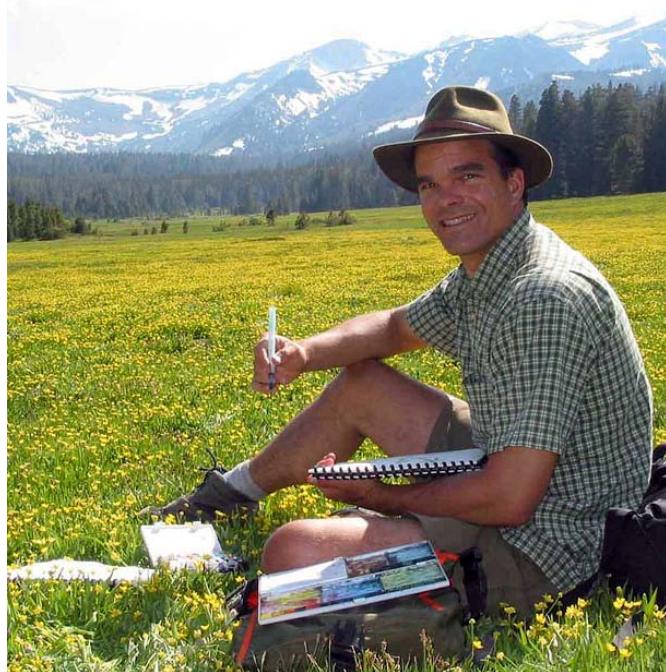


Volume XXXI No. 7

March 2011

Program: Wednesday, March 16 John Muir Laws

Our speaker for the March 16th meeting will be the ever-popular John Muir Laws, who will offer his usual inspiring and passionate presentation for our delectation and delight!



As many of you know, Jack was the recipient in 2010 of a grant from the National Audubon Society and Toyota that will enable him to work with an initial 10 schools in Tuolumne County to widen the scope of his "Following Muir's Footsteps" educational program in our county.

The program is designed to engender passionate love of nature, personal understanding of natural history and commitment to stewardship. It gets students out in the field, learning from their own observations and using field guides and nature journals as the basis for discovering nature around them.

We look forward to another full house, so come early!

The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Sonora Public Library on Greenley Road at 7 PM, Wednesday, March 16th. The public is warmly welcomed at these events, and refreshments are served afterwards. Products and publications on a wide range of birding topics are on display at each meeting.

Field Trip ~ March 18-20 Pinnacles Nat. Mon.

John Turner will lead a field trip at Pinnacles National Monument. Located off Highway 25 south of Hollister, this can be a two- or three-day outing. Considering the distance, carpooling is recommended. There will be birding excursions



Trail leading into Pinnacles Monument

Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday morning. There are motels in Hollister, or camping at the monument's Pinnacles Campground. John and Sandra plan on arriving on Thursday with their trailer. For camping information, call the Pinnacles Campground Store at (831) 389-4538 between 4PM and 5PM Mon.-Fri., or 10AM to 4PM Sat. and Sun. Visit the website www.nps.gov/pinn/planyourvisit/camp.htm. The campground has very limited and pricey supplies so plan to bring food, and water or beverages.

Set in a habitat of chaparral, oaks and gray pines, the formations created by volcanic activity millions of years ago set a stunning backdrop on the horizon to the west and south. There are miles of hiking trails of varying difficulty, and at the top, are great views. This should also be a good opportunity for photography.

Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen, and insect repellent, are advisable for all trips. As always, plan for variable weather. Binoculars are a must, bird books are most helpful, and spotting scopes are optional and are much appreciated.

All CSAS field trips are open to the public. Beginning birders are always welcome. For trip or camping information, contact John Turner, 852-2348, email josanbird@gmail.com. Please contact John before Thursday, March 17 if you are planning on attending this outing for meeting times and place. Only very heavy rain will cancel this trip.

BABY BIRD SEASON IS COMING!

What do you do if you find a baby bird?

Baby birds require two things: warmth and food. If you find one, you can provide warmth as indicated below, BUT — DO NOT PROVIDE ANY KIND OF FOOD OR LIQUID, INCLUDING WATER — IT CAN KILL THE BABY IN VERY SHORT ORDER. As described below, the parents or a wildlife rehabilitator will take care of the feeding.

If you find a nest on the ground with babies in it: See if you can determine where the nest came from, and replace it if possible. If the babies are cold and limp, WARM THEM IMMEDIATELY in your cupped hands before replacing them. Most birds do not have a strong sense of smell, and parents will not reject a nest or bird if you have handled them.

If you must create a new nest: To keep the babies warm while you make a new nest, place them in a shoebox or the like, lined with paper towels and topped with tissues, in a bowl shape, with holes in the lid for air. Set a heating pad on LOW, lay a hand towel on the pad, and put the box on top of that. You can also microwave a dishtowel for 25 seconds (only warm enough to place over your face) and place it in the box, never directly on the birds. Cover the box and put it in a room away from children and pets.

To make the new nest, line a plastic butter tub with holes punched in the bottom, or a berry basket, with paper towels topped with tissues. Do not use grass or other outdoor matter, as it may contain moisture which will chill the babies. Place the babies in your nest and wire it as close as possible to the original location, out of sunlight and sheltered from weather. Watch at a distance, give it some time, and the parents will come back to feed the babies.

If you can't replace the nest, the parents are truly gone, or the babies are cold, they need to be rescued. If a bird still has skin showing or is listless or injured, or the parents are nowhere to be found, warm it in your hands, place it in a box as described above and call a wildlife rehabilitator right away. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE in saving birds — they are vulnerable to starvation, chill and, if caught by a cat, infection.

Fledglings, those babies which have left the nest, are fully feathered and hop around on the ground but can't quite fly yet, are proceeding naturally in learning needed skills, and don't need to be rescued. You will probably see the parents close by. Full flight can take 5 to 25 days, so if you can, keep children and pets out of the area. For Tuolumne County: **RoseWolf Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation: (209) 588-8649**

For Calaveras, Amador and Eastern San Joaquin Counties: **Tri County Wildlife Care: (209) 547 3233**
Intermediary in Murphys: **Kate Sim (209) 728 9022**

BIRDBOXES, BATS AND BOOKS

Correction! We regret an error made in last month's newsletter. The date of the bird box sale is **Saturday, April 9**, not April 4.

As usual, it will be held from 9AM until 2PM at Rocca Park in Jamestown, in conjunction with the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society's semi-annual plant sale. **If anyone would be willing to construct bird or bat houses or bird feeders, please contact John Turner at 852-2348, or Tom Harrington at 694-8564 for plans or wood.** Also, please consider volunteering a few hours on April 9 to man our booth and help with the sale.

COMING EVENTS

March 11: Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

The next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup will be held Friday, March 11. CSAS picks up a nearly two-mile stretch of Highway 120 near Don Pedro Reservoir. We will meet at Perko's at 7:30 AM and carpool. Rain cancels. If in doubt, please call Tom Harrington one hour before the meeting time, at 694-8564.

April 30-May 1: Audubon Canyon Ranch

Audubon Canyon Ranch, formally known as Martin Griffin Preserve, is one of the most significant and well-studied nesting sites of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets on the West Coast. In April, the courting rituals among the birds are taking place and by late April into May, many eggs and chicks are visible.

Accommodations are available at the preserve. There are unheated bunkhouses with separate restrooms and showers. There is no fee; however a \$15 donation is encouraged, as the donations support ACR's preservation, education and research programs. Located near Bolinas Lagoon, we will also visit the lagoon area for marsh and water birds. For additional information call John Turner, 852-2348 or email *csasbird@gmail.com*.

Beginning Birding Field Trip

The club is planning at least one beginning birding field trip for mid-May. The location will be either the Confidence Trail near Twain Harte, or the Groveland Community Service District grounds. Check the April newsletter or our website, *centralsierraaudubon.org* next month for date, time and additional information.

June 3-5: Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley

In the past we have stayed at Herrington's Sierra Pines Resort in Sierra City on Hwy. 49. Some rooms overlook the North Yuba River, but reservations need to be made early for these rooms. Camping is also available first-come first-served at Wild Plum NF Campground just east of town. We will bird the Yuba Pass area, the Gold Lakes area and the Sierra Valley to the east of Yuba Pass. For information contact John Turner, 852-2348 or *csasbird@gmail.com*.

Audubon Chapters Acting Locally

I am constantly amazed and impressed by the work that I see Audubon chapters carrying out in their local communities. I spend most of my weekdays throughout the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada, and the Audubon chapters I visit are working on an incredible range of issues and projects. From outdoor education programs that connect children with nature, to riparian restoration projects, to native plant gardens, to people who devote a remarkable amount of time (and mileage) to conduct citizen science surveys. And all of this work is done entirely by volunteers. There seems to be no end to the energy and resources that these folks will put into improving circumstances for local birds. And without these efforts, our birds would undoubtedly be suffering.

The ongoing and uphill nature of working to protect our wildlife and natural resources can sometimes be overwhelming. Between increasingly gloomy climate change scenarios, the constant threat of drought, and our disappearing natural landscapes, it's easy to get discouraged. Political leaders often appear disconnected from what's really happening in local communities, and even those with the very best intentions often struggle to realize their conservation promises.

The importance of local involvement in the conservation movement really cannot be overstated. Nobody understands the beauty, history, and significance of your landscape better than you. And no one will work harder to protect it. Conservation groups that have lasting impact realize that even projects and issues that appear small may have significant impact over time, and that every step we take today brings us closer to a brighter conservation future for our children.

To get involved, contact your chapter board and find out what's going on in your community. You can also visit www.ca.audubon.org to find out more about statewide conservation initiatives.

Jordan Wellwood
Audubon California

Your Audubon Board:

Rick Baird, President	532-4323
Barry Boulton, Vice President	795-8225
Tom Harrington, Secretary	694-8564
Sandra Turner, Treasurer	852-2348
Jeanne Ridgley, Membership	962-7598
Christine Meyers, Co-Conservation	(808) 753-4390
Tom Parrington, Co-Conservation	928-3835
Pamela Blair, Education	533-1668
Kate Sim, Newsletter	728-9022
David Harden, At-Large	533-1668
Kathy Harrington, Publicity	694-8564
John Turner, Past President	852-2348

Your Audubon Committees:

Steven Umland, Sightings	352-6985
Suzanne Kilburn, Bird Box Trail	532-1938
Tom Harrington, Book Sales	694-8564
Anthea Neilson, Hospitality	533-0360
John Turner, Field Trips	852-2348

California State Parks

Because Prop 21 (the \$18 fee per vehicle registration) did not pass in November, operation of our State Parks will still be dependent on whatever funds are allocated in the state budget. Since the large budget deficit could very well mean a reduction in funding for the parks, I would suggest that anyone who voted in favor of Prop. 21 become a member of the California State Parks Foundation. Check www.calparks.org to see the different levels of membership — all levels include a FREE one-year subscription to Sunset Magazine and other perks. Gift memberships are also available. Donations to the California State Parks Foundation are tax deductible. California has a terrific system of State Parks, which at the present time, need all the support we can give them.



Greylag goslings unquestioning accept the first living being whom they meet as their mother, and run confidently after "her." Mallards, on the contrary, always refused to do this... I remembered that I had once let a Muscovy duck hatch a clutch of mallard eggs and that the tiny mallards had (also) failed to accept this foster mother... On the other hand, I once let a fat white farmyard duck hatch out mallards and the little wild things ran just as happily after her as if she had been their real mother. The secret must have lain in her call note, for, in external appearance, the domestic duck was quite as different from a mallard as was the Muscovy; but what she had in common with the mallard (which, of course, is the wild progenitor of our farmyard duck) were her vocal expressions... The freshly hatched ducklings have an inborn reaction to the call-note, but not to the optical picture of the mother.

Konrad Z. Lorenz, King Solomon's Ring

Central Sierra Audubon Society gratefully accepts tax deductible gifts to help support our meetings, scholarships, and educational programs.

Please mail to: CSAS, PO Box 3047, Sonora, CA.

MARCH BOARD MEETING
Tuesday March 22, 2PM
Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.

SIERRA SQUAWKER
Central Sierra Audubon Society
(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)
P.O. Box 3047
Sonora, CA 95370
209-532-0570
www.centralsierraaudubon.org



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Jamestown, CA
95327

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 2011

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General Meetings

3rd Wednesday (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)
7 PM, Tuolumne County Library

Board Meetings

4th Tuesday, August through May (except Dec.)
2 PM, Jamestown Community Hall

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To become a member of BOTH the National Audubon Society, with subscription to *Audubon* magazine, and of **Central Sierra Audubon Society**, with subscription to CSAS newsletter, *Sierra Squawker*, complete this form and mail with a check for **\$20.00 payable to National Audubon Society** to:

Jeanne Ridgley, CSAS Membership Chairman, 19353 Pine Mountain Dr., Groveland, CA 95321
(To become a member of **only CSAS**, (with subscription to the CSAS newsletter, *Sierra Squawker*, please make your check for \$15.00 payable to **CSAS**)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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e-mail address _____

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