

Central Sierra Audubon Society's
Sierra Squawker



Volume XXXI No. 8

April 2011

Field Trip: April 30 & May 1 Audubon Canyon Ranch

John Turner will lead a field trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch, also known as the Martin Griffin Preserve. The nature preserve is located just off Highway 1, north of

Stinson Beach in Marin County. This is one of the most significant and well-studied nesting sites of Great Blue Herons, and both Great and Snowy Egrets on the West Coast. By late April and into May, eggs and chicks should be visible.



— Photo courtesy ACR

Snowy Egrets

Accommodations are available at the preserve in a bunkhouse with separate restrooms and showers, or you can camp in your own tent. There are also motels in the town of Stinson Beach. There is no fee for staying at the preserve; however a \$15 donation is encouraged as the donations support ACR's preservation, education and research programs. For additional information call **John Turner, 852-2348** or email csasbird@gmail.com.

We will meet in Perko's parking lot at 6:45AM to set up a carpool for a departure time of 7AM sharp. There is very limited parking at the preserve. Also, you will need to pack a lunch for Saturday. There is a well-equipped kitchen available at the preserve, but you must bring your own food, dishes and utensils. There is no food available at the preserve, and markets are in Stinson Beach or Bolinas.

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. Only very heavy rain will cancel this trip.

Spring Birdhouse Sale Saturday, April 9

Rocca Park, Jamestown

Our annual Spring Birdhouse Sale will be Saturday, April 9, 9AM to 1PM in Rocca Park, Jamestown. At this sale, which is in combination with the California Native Plant Society's Plant Sale, you will find bird houses and feeders, books, calendars, toys and T-shirts. This is also the place to get answers to all your bird questions, get some valuable tips, and share stories. Come early for the best selections.

Program: April 20th Burleigh Lockwood

Burleigh Lockwood, a happy discovery for us at the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua in June 2005, will present this month's program. A very entertaining presenter, she has given programs to our club nearly every year, and has lots of stories and interesting specimens. This would be a great program for youngsters to attend. In coordination with our continuing education program, Burleigh will also be giving classroom presentations the following day at a local elementary school. Burleigh is currently a biologist for the Education Department of the Chafee Zoo in Fresno.

The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Sonora Public Library on Greenley Road at 7 PM, Wednesday, April 20. The public is warmly welcomed at these events, and refreshments are served afterward. Products and publications on a wide range of birding topics are available for sale at each meeting. For more information contact: **Barry Boulton, 795-8225** or email barryboulton@earthlink.net

**APRIL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 6 PM
Jamestown Community Hall on Main**

Of Interest

Baby Owls on View!

To get a peek at baby barn owls in a nest box, go to www.hungryowl.org, where an owl cam is running night and day. The cam has been set up by the Hungry Owl Project, a program of Wildcare in San Rafael. HOP, directed by Alex Godbe, rescues baby barn owls as well as setting up owl boxes all around Marin County. There are several owl cams on view at this site, as well as still photos of the comical nestlings, and interesting information about the Barn Owl.

Pt. Reyes

Birding and Nature Festival April 29 – May 2

The festival, sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, features trips for birders from beginning to advanced, observing birds of the ocean, coast, forest and wetlands. There will be walks for kids, butterfly, dragonfly and wildflower walks and more, in addition to boat and car trips, hiking and biking trips.

Register now, as classes fill up fast. Email prbnfestival@gmail.com.

Western Field Ornithologists Conference, August 17-21 Sierra Vista, AZ

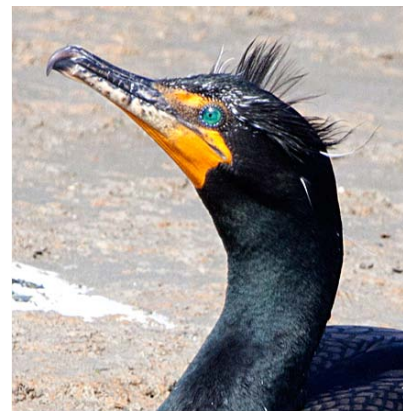
If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. Peter Pyle will give the keynote address on molt migration, and workshops will be offered on topics such as flycatcher identification, bird banding, study skin preparation and wilderness first aid.

To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the "Annual Conference" banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

Field Trip Report

Elkhorn Slough

The scheduled Saturday, February 19 trip to Elkhorn Slough was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 9, because of the cold and unexpected snowy weather. We were told it had even lightly snowed in the Moss Landing area. With an early departure of 5AM the group arrived in time for a 9AM launch time from Moss Landing. The tour of the lower portion of the slough was very nice with beautiful, calm and balmy weather and lots of wildlife to be seen.



— John Turner photo

Double-crested Cormorant

Along with the 73 species of birds seen on the slough and the Elkhorn Slough Preserve, we saw over 40 Sea Otters, several Harbor Seals and many Sea Lions. Highlights were Red-throated Loon and Common Loons, Brandt's, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants (with the double crests visible!), Red-breasted Mergansers, Forster's Terns and several species of shore birds.

— John Turner

COMING EVENTS

May Beginning Birding Field Trips

The club is planning at least one and possibly two beginning birding field trips for mid-May. The locations will be either the Confidence Trail near Twain Harte, or the Groveland Community Service District grounds. The May newsletter or our website, centralsierraaudubon.org later in April, will have the information for dates and times, or you may contact John Turner, 852-2348 or csasbird@gmail.com.

June 3-5: Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley

In past years, 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 as first-come first-served at Wild Plum NF Campground about a mile east of town. We will bird the Yuba Pass area, the Gold Lakes area, and the Sierra Valley to the east of Yuba Pass. Most will be staying Friday and Saturday nights, with the option of also staying Sunday night. The leader will be in contact with the resort for information on when reservations may be made. For additional information you may call John Turner, 852-2348 or email csasbird@gmail.com.

Bird Feeding Tips

From the National Bird-Feeding Society

1. Bird feeding is for people who love watching birds. Always place your bird feeders in places where you can readily and frequently see the birds you are feeding.

2. Start with the basics – Black-oil sunflower in a tubular feeder is a very effective combination for attracting a large number of birds to your yard.



3. Attract more species by adding additional types of feeders and seed – Try Nyjer® in a tube feeder, and mixtures of black oil sunflower with hulled sunflower, and whole peanuts in hopper and platform feeders.

4. Don't forget about alternative foods and water – Suet, fruits, mealworms, nectar and water may attract species of birds not found at traditional offerings.

5. The bird species in your yard change with season of the year –The birds visiting your feeders in summer may be very different from those in winter. Provide the feeders and food best suited to your seasonal suite of birds.

6. Make your yard bird-friendly. Provide birds with habitat, food, water, and nest boxes so birds will use your yard year-round. Bird feeders near larger trees and shrubs often have more bird visits.

7. Keep the birds safe – Reduce window collisions, keep birds safe from outdoor cats, and clean your feeders. Move feeders to within 3 feet of windows, remove hiding places of cats, and keep feeders free of debris and filled only with seeds birds will eat.

8. Use binoculars and a backyard bird guide to learn more about your birds – Learning more about birds by using the tools of the birdwatcher provides you with a greater appreciation for your feathered friends.

9. Take your hobby to the next level – Explore your local, state, and national parks and refuges. You will see bird species you can't see in your yard

For more information go to www.birdfeeding.org or call 1-866-WILDBIRD.



According to Alex Godbe, director of the Hungry Owl Project (see page 2), a family of four barn owls can consume up to 3,000 rodents a month!

President's Notes

A Successful Program

Pamela Blair, our Education Chair, just completed working with John Muir Laws, a nationally-recognized author and artist, on delivering John's program "Following Muir's Footsteps" over a two-week period to 10 different Tuolumne County schools. This is a program, which brings to the students an appreciation of the environment we are so fortunate to have here in Tuolumne County. John reached over 1500 school children ranging in age from grammar through high school over the two-week period and we have heard rave reviews about the program and John from teachers and students alike.

The "Following Muir's Footsteps" program was funded by \$10,000 grant to Central Sierra Audubon Society from TogetherGreen, a National Audubon grant program made possible with funding from Toyota.

John Laws, while here in Tuolumne, was also the principal speaker at our recent March General Meeting where he entertained and educated adults and children alike with a fascinating program on local wildflowers and their relationship to various pollinators. He is truly an amazing speaker and we feel extremely lucky having him here for one of our monthly programs.

This has been indeed a truly memorable two-week period for us at Central Sierra Audubon Society here in Tuolumne County. — **Rick Baird, President**

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
Tom Parrington, 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

SIERRA SQUAWKER

Central Sierra Audubon Society

(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

P.O. Box 3047

Sonora, CA 95370

209-532-0570

www.centralsierraudubon.org

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



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PAID
Permit #1
Jamestown, CA
95327

April 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.)

6 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 **check for \$20 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 payable to CSAS)*

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Newsletter preference Email me the PDF copy

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The Board of Directors of the Central Sierra Audubon Society is studying ways to cut expenses to enable us to spend more of our budget on environmental issues, scholarships and education. **If you would like to get your newsletter by email and save our chapter printing and mailing costs, please indicate below or email Jeanne Ridgley: jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net.**

A list of our active committees follows. We hope you will volunteer for a committee that interests you. If you have any questions, please call or email Jeanne Ridgley.

Hospitality Committee-provide and serve refreshments at the monthly meeting

Annual Meeting Committee-plan meeting, coordinate potluck for annual June meeting

Newsletter Committee-assist Squawker newsletter editor, prepare newsletter for mailing

Conservation Committee-advise membership regarding governmental policies and actions affecting the natural environment and the conservation of natural resources

Field Trip Committee-plan field trips, find leaders, and coordinate carpooling

Program Committee-assist Program chairman with planning and obtaining speakers for meetings

Membership Committee-help maintain database, greet members and guests at meetings, prepare newsletter for mailing

Publicity Committee-assist Publicity chairman with planning and publicizing CSAS activities

Education Committee-assist Education chairman with planning and presenting classroom programs

Website- help to maintain and update our CSAS website

Adopt a Highway-volunteers needed to pick up trash on Hwy 120 near Lake Don Pedro bi-monthly

Sales-assist at sales events such as semi-annual birdhouse sales in April and October

We need your help. If you would like to volunteer, please return the following form to me. We hope to hear from you.

Jeanne Ridgley
19353 Pine Mountain Drive
Groveland, CA 95321
209 962-7598
email: jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net

Yes, I would like to volunteer for _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

_____ I would like to get your CSAS newsletter at my email address and save our chapter printing and mailing costs.

_____ I will read the CSAS Squawker on the website: www.centralsierraudubon.org.

_____ Please mail my CSAS Squawker to my mailing address above.