



May 18 Program: Dragonflies of the Sierra

Kathy Biggs, author of "*Common Dragonflies of California, A Beginner's Pocket Guide*," will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, May 18 at 7 PM. Predating birds, and even dinosaurs, dragonflies are a diverse group with



Flame Skimmer Dragonfly

colorful names and often bizarre behaviors: Black Saddlebags, Blue Dasher, Grappletail, Sooty Dancer and others. The biology, life cycles, behaviors and identification marks of the most common of the 60 species that occur in our area will be discussed.

As a child, Kathy traipsed through the fields near her Bay Area home collecting insects and trying to catch birds by shaking salt on their tails! Much later, dragonflies became her passion. When she discovered there were no guides available for them, Kathy collected data which, as an educator, she posted on the Internet and which eventually evolved into her first book. So much has been learned about dragonflies in the past ten years that Kathy has totally revised the first edition. The updated version will be on sale at discounted prices at the meeting and, of course, Kathy will be willing to sign them.

The 7 PM meeting is held in the Community Room of the Sonora Public Library on Greenley Road. 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 meetings. For additional information contact: **Barry Boulton, 795-8225** or email barryboulton@earthlink.net.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Friday, May 20

The next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup will be Friday, May 20. CSAS picks up a nearly two-mile stretch of Highway 120 near Don Pedro Reservoir. We will meet at Perko's at 7:30AM and carpool. Rain cancels. If in doubt, call Tom Harrington one hour before the meeting time, at 694-8564.

Field Trips: May 15 & 21

Please join us for these specially-chosen field trips for beginning birders, which would also be a good choice for school-aged children. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate.

Twain Harte's Confidence Trail

The **Sunday, May 15** field trip will be on Twain Harte's Confidence Grade. This is an old logging railroad grade, and so is a flat, wide, easy-walking trail. Along with a good variety of middle-elevation birds, birds expected to be seen are Nashville, Yellow-rumped and perhaps a MacGillivray's Warbler, Western Wood-Pewees, and White-headed Woodpeckers. Bring a lunch and afterwards, we will picnic on the Schieferstein's deck, and Joyce will serve refreshments!

The start of the trail is located on Confidence-South Fork Road, just a jog north off Middle Camp Road. Parking is limited at the trailhead. Carpoolers are to meet in front of Perko's in Sonora at 8AM or at the trailhead at 8:30AM. For further information, call John Turner, 852-2348 or email josanbird@gmail.com.

Groveland's "G.C.S.D."

The **Saturday, May 21** field trip will be on Groveland's Community Service District property. The field trip leader, Jeanne Ridgley, has been birding there since November of 2007 and has seen a total of 123 species. Jeanne will meet the group in the parking lot at 8:30 AM. From Groveland on Highway 120, turn left on Ferretti Road, and just past Two Guys Pizza, turn left into the driveway for GCSD and proceed to the parking lot.

There will be carpooling from Sonora. Meet in front of Perko's in Sonora at 7:30AM. For lunch we can go to Two Guys Pizza or bring a lunch and eat at Jeanne Ridgley's home. For further information, call **Jeanne Ridgley, 962-7598** or email jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net.

All CSAS field trips are open to the public and welcome on all day trips. Remember to bring drinking water, a lunch and/or snacks. Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended for all trips. Dressing in layers may be advisable for this trip. Binoculars are a must, bird books most helpful, and spotting scopes are optional and much appreciated. For additional information regarding the field trip contact the leader at the above phone number or email address. Heavy rain will cancel, and if there is any doubt, call at least one hour prior to the meeting time.

From the President...

Election Meeting Next Month!

The nominating committee met in April and has chosen the following candidates for the elective positions:

President	Rick Baird
Vice President	David Harden
Secretary	Tom Harrington
Treasurer	Janet Maffei
Director at Large	Barry Boulton

All Central Sierra Audubon Society members are invited to attend to elect next year's board members. The meeting and potluck will be held at the Senior Center next door to the library on Greenley Rd, Sonora, on Friday, June 24. Details will be in the June issue of the Squawker.

If the Board approves at their upcoming April Board meeting on Tuesday, April 26th, there will also be **two By-Law changes on the ballot to vote on.**

These will be:

1. Make the Conservation Chair position a 2nd Vice-President.

This will also require our existing Vice President to be renamed 1st Vice-President. The reasoning behind this By-Law change, is that the Conservation Chair communicates with regulatory bodies and others regarding conservation issues. Signing these communications as 2nd Vice-President and Conservation Chair, indicates a more prominent position within CSAS, than signing as Conservation Chair.

If this By-Law change is approved, Tom Parrington will be added to the nominees above as 2nd Vice-President and Conservation Chair, to be voted on during the election of officers for next year.

2. Make the Field Trip Committee Chair a Board member.

The Field Trip Chair is the only major committee chair not now a member of the Board. Field Trips are one of the most important activities CSAS engages in. Thus it is thought this position should be a Board member and attend Board meetings. We have been fortunate in the past to have John Turner as Field Trip Chair as well as a member of the Board as Past President. This is not always going to happen. Thus this By-Law change will make the Field Trip Chair a Board member, like the other principal Committee Chairs of CSAS.
—Rick Baird, President

Birdhouse Sale

It was a lovely sunny day for our annual Spring Birdhouse Sale on April 9 in Rocca Park, Jamestown. We had reasonably good sales, as well as several donations. Our new members, Pat and Marty Price, donated two Barn Owl boxes; we also received several bat houses from Jerry Fueslein, and Jeanne and Larry Bodiford brought a very beautiful and elaborate birdhouse. Profits from sales will go to Central Sierra Audubon's education and scholarship programs. The club would like to extend a very gracious "Thank You" to all who helped with set up, sales and takedown. Your generosity makes a big difference!

Coming Events

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 may still be available, and reservations must be made. Their phone number is **(800) 682-9848**. Camping is also available as first-come, first-served at Wild Plum NF Campground, about a mile east of town. It is a very nice campground on the North Fork of the Yuba River. 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 staying Sunday night as well. For additional information call **John Turner, 852-2348** or email josanbird@gmail.com.

Scholarship Awarded

The Central Sierra Audubon Society Scholarship Committee interviewed qualified candidates for the Edye Dingman Scholarship. The candidate selected is David Wirtanen. A graduate of Columbia College this spring, he will be entering Humboldt State University in the fall to pursue a major in ecological restoration and a minor in geology. He has a strong interest in becoming an environmental spokesperson for policy making, hoping to perhaps someday work with the Colorado Institute think tank in Boulder, Colorado. He has volunteered locally with groups that have done clean up work in the forests and streams. We wish him success in his studies and career.

Email or Snailmail?

The Board of Directors decided, that beginning in October 2011, a printed newsletter be sent only to members who specifically request it. The Squawker newsletter will be sent by email and also will be available on our website: www.centralsierraudubon.org. At the present time, about 80 members receive the Squawker by email. If you would like to start now to receive the newsletter by email, please send your request to jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net

Members who wish to continue to receive the printed copy by mail should send a request to **Jeanne Ridgley, Membership Chairman, 19353 Pine Mountain Drive, Groveland, CA 95321** by September 15, 2011.

The Board has made this decision because the printing and mailing costs are increasing. We would like to spend CSAS's limited budget on scholarships, education and conservation issues. Most members have email and we can send the newsletter at no cost. By making this change, we are also saving trees and habitat.

Bird vs. Window

One evening a few months ago, I came home to find my resident Red-shouldered Hawk hanging upside down on the screen of the kitchen window, both legs caught in the fine mesh. He had not perceived that the “other” hawk in the window was his own reflection, and had attacked it. I got my raptor gloves (heavy material with high cuffs to prevent injury from talons) and a pair of scissors, and approached the window. He saw me coming and flapped desperately to free himself. As the window was beside a staircase and too high to reach from a standing position, all I could do was go up a few steps and try to get to him from the side. At closer range, his beauty brought me up short for a moment—his head, normally a sleek brown through binoculars, was covered with deep chestnut feathers that gleamed, even on that overcast day. His eyes were brown/black and focused on me with the fiercely intense gaze of the wild creature who looks with one hundred per cent attention.

I couldn't really reach him from an angle that would free him and not injure me, so I took the scissors and cut one leg free of the screen. Fortunately, he was able to pull the other leg out and fly off without anything trailing from his talons. Great relief—BUT—this was the third time he'd been caught in a screen!

We all have the problem—how can I keep birds from flying into my windows—which they do for at least two reasons: one, they don't see the glass and think they can fly right through, or two, they see their reflections and fly at the “other bird.” Following are a few suggestions which might be helpful:

1. Place decals of larger birds on the window—they are faint from inside, more definite as seen by the birds outside.
2. Hang wind chimes, planters, wind socks or Mylar strips (as used in vineyards) in front of the windows.
3. Install awnings or other coverings which change the reflective quality of the windows.

Screens are obviously not much help. The Mylar strips I hung in front of my sliding door haven't deterred the bellicose bluebirds, but they do slow down their flight to where they sort of flutter against the window, and don't hurt themselves.

If a bird does hit, leave it alone for at least half an hour—sometimes they're just stunned, and will recover. If it hasn't gone by then, approach slowly—it may leap away suddenly. If it's obviously injured, get it to a rehabilitator right away—see March 2011 issue for contact info.

If you have any helpful suggestions on the window problem, contact me at katesim@att.net, or (209) 728-9022, and I'll be glad to pass the word on. —*Kate Sim, Editor*



Recycle Your Old Binoculars & Scopes

Binoculars and scopes in good working condition are needed for use in classrooms in our two counties for students in grades 3 and up. Please consider donating your older equipment, and thus providing wonderful experiences for children new to birding. All donations are tax deductible and so appreciated by the education program! Contact me at pamelab@sonnet.com or 533-1668. —*Pamela Blair, Education Chair*

Join Our Listserv

Go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS_Birds/ to join our Listserv, where you will be asked to join the Yahoo Group. Do so, and continue on to the CSAS page, and fill out that info. On the Listserv, you will be informed of the most recent local sightings, be encouraged to post your own sightings, be able to ask questions, and exchange information on birds and birding knowledge within the boundaries of Central Sierra Audubon's region in California.



Most (hummingbird) nests are built starting at the base, by entwining materials around a thin branch until a ball is formed. While the bird is standing on the top of the ball, the sides are pulled up, added to, and then camouflaged. The hummingbird constructs her nest from the most delicate natural fibers she can find. The structure of spider webs, lichen and mosses is expandable; as the chicks grow, so grows the nest.

—*Sharon A. Cohen and Gerry Ellis, Bird Nests*

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, 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

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



Presorted
Standard Mail
PAID
Permit #1
Jamestown, CA
95327

May 2011

Field Trips:

Twain Harte's Confidence Trail, Page 1

Groveland's "G.C.S.D." Page 1

Program:

Dragonflies, Kathy Biggs, Page 1

Inside:

Election Meeting, Page 2

Scholarship Award, Page 2

Bird vs. Window, Page 3

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
 Send me the print version

C1ZC440Z