

Central Sierra Audubon Society's  
*Sierra Squawker*



Volume XXXI No. 10

June 2011

## Election Meeting & Potluck June 24, 6PM

Please join us on FRIDAY (note: not the usual Wednesday), June 24, at 6PM at the Senior Center, next door to the library on Greenley Road, for our annual Summer Potluck and Election of Officers. A main course, meat or vegetarian, will be provided, as well as coffee and hot water for tea. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share and a beverage, if you choose. You may call **Anthea Neilson, 533-0360** or **Kathy Harrington, 694-8564** if you have any questions.

### Candidates for the board positions are:

President	Rick Baird
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	David Harden
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Tom Parrington
Secretary	Tom Harrington
Treasurer	Janet Maffei
Director at Large	Barry Boulton

### Following is a PROPOSED AMENDMENT to our by-laws to be voted on:

#### ARTICLE V, SECTION 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MEMBERSHIP

The corporation shall have eleven (11) Directors and shall collectively be known as the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) elected officers, plus a Membership Director, a Field Trip Director, a Newsletter Director, an Education Director, a Publicity Director, and the Past President. The number of Directors may be changed by amendment of this Bylaw, as provided in these Bylaws.

#### SECTION 3 - ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

The President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of members present or represented by a proxy at the annual meeting of members. The First Vice President shall be the Programs Director. The Second Vice President shall be the Conservation Director. The immediate Past President shall be a member of the Board in a voting position.

#### SECTION 4 - NON-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

The President will nominate and the Board of Directors will approve the following Directors: Membership Director, Field Trip Director, Newsletter Director, Education Director, and Publicity Director. This shall happen at the first Board of Directors meeting after July 1, when the elected officers take office.

## Field Trip, June 3-5, Yuba Pass

The club has been visiting this area every other year for over ten years. This year's trip is the weekend of June 3 through 5. Plan to arrive in the afternoon of Friday, June 3.



—Barry Boulton photo  
**Red Crossbill**

We will meet in John and Sandra Turner's room to discuss plans for Saturday and Sunday. Both Saturday and Sunday mornings we will be leaving at 8 AM sharp. There are no refrigerators in the rooms, but ice is available for ice chests. For those who are camping at Wild Plum NF campground, meet us in front of Herrington's Resort and from there we will carpool. Depending on the weather, we will start with the Gold Lakes Highway or go down the east side to the Sierra Valley. On both days bring a sack lunch. In the past we have had dinner at Herrington's at least one evening. John & Sandi Turner will also be staying Sunday night. For additional information, please call **John Turner, 852-2348** or email [josanbird@gmail.com](mailto:josanbird@gmail.com).

## Email or Snailmail?

The Board of Directors has decided that *beginning in October 2011, a printed newsletter will be sent only to members who specifically request it.* The newsletter will be sent, for viewing or printing, by email and is also available on our website, [www.centralsierraaudubon.org](http://www.centralsierraaudubon.org). Currently about 80 members receive the Squawker by email. If you plan to visit our website to read it each month, no action is necessary. To start now to receive it by email, please send a request to [jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net)

*Members who wish to continue to receive the printed copy by mail must send a request by Sept 1, 2011, to Jeanne Ridgley, Membership 19353 Pine Mountain Drive , Groveland , CA 95321.*

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

# Monterey Bay Birding Festival

The seventh annual Monterey Birding Festival, home of one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America, will take place **September 22-25** at the Watsonville Civic Plaza, Watsonville CA (located between Santa Cruz and Monterey).

The festival theme this year, "*The Evolution of Birding – From Field Guides to Hi-Tech*" will celebrate the days of John James Audubon to the modern days of hi-tech innovations in birding. Fifty-two field trips are offered with great leaders, as well as keynote-speakers Joe Morlan, Debi Shearwater and Stephen Shunk.

Online registration began on May 23, so be sure to register soon at [www.montereybaybirding.org](http://www.montereybaybirding.org).

Designed for birders of all levels, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn and appreciate world-class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Pinnacles National Monument. You'll be able to go to outings in the mountains, shoreline, chaparral, sloughs and grasslands, and also enjoy pelagic trips by Shearwater Journeys. For more information, call **831 600-8893**, or email [montereybaybirding@hotmail.com](mailto:montereybaybirding@hotmail.com).

## Would You Like to Help Us?

### Donations

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 95370.

### 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, thus providing wonderful experiences for children new to birding. All donations are tax deductible and so appreciated by the education program! Please contact Pamela Blair, Education Chair at [pamelab@sonnet.com](mailto:pamelab@sonnet.com) or 533-1668.

### Bird House Builders

Many thanks to builders of our bird and bat boxes, feeders and houses during the past year, and those who bought these items. Our sales were quite successful and now need a resupply, especially of bluebird-style houses for our next sale which is in October. John Turner (852-2348) and Tom Harrington (694-8564) have plans and wood for anyone who could help out by building some bird boxes.

### Ink Cartridges

In a recycling program with Staples, we can get dollars in exchange for ink cartridges. Please bring them the next time you come to one of our meetings, and give them to Jeanne Ridgeley, our Membership chair.

## Annual New Melones Osprey Count, June 18

On Saturday, June 18, New Melones Lake will host their Annual Osprey Count. Volunteer birders are needed to facilitate this annual event. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Glory Hole boat launch. Expect to be finished, and out of the water by about 1:00 PM.

Remember to bring drinking water, wear a sunhat and sunscreen.

For more information, and to sign up, please call us at (209) 536-9094, ext. 0 (operator) and ask for Debra Wright, Leanne Bryan or Casey.



## THANK YOU!

*Joyce & Bob Schieferstein and Penelope Bowen  
for their generous donations to CSAS.*

Donations help support our meetings, scholarships  
and educational programs.

### 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

Wishing you all  
A Wonderful, Birdsong  
Summer.

# Field Trip Reports

## Audubon Canyon Ranch

When most of the group arrived late Saturday morning, we walked up to the observation platform above the nesting area. This year only Great Egrets were nesting. There were eggs visible briefly when one egret would stand up, but no hatchlings were evident.

Rick Baird, who was president of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) in the early '80s, was very familiar with the various areas of ACR and led the trip the rest of the weekend. We heard there were a few nesting Great Blue Herons on Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon, but didn't have any luck there either. We spent some time at PRBO's banding facility, but no banding was taking place. After a brief visit to Point Reyes National Seashore we returned to ACR for a quiet enjoyable evening.

Rick had commented that in 30 years he had never seen the Bolinas Lagoon area so bare of birds. Sunday morning after breakfast we drove up Highway One. We stopped at the trailhead at Five Brooks where there is a fair-sized pond. As we walked around it we spotted an overhead Osprey, a couple of warblers, including a Wilson's and a Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Further up the highway at Marshall, we visited ACR's Cypress Grove Preserve. This facility used to be a duck club and is in a beautiful location right on Tomales Bay. Down at the beach Caspian Terns, several species of gulls, and cormorants were seen.

This wasn't a good trip for birds, but I think those who went enjoyed seeing a beautiful part of the California coast from Bolinas Lagoon up to Marshall and being in some areas not normally open to the public.

## Twain Harte's Confidence Trail

This birding field trip was cancelled due to *snow!*

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

On Saturday morning, May 21, with nice weather (for a change), Jeanne Ridgley led a Central Sierra Audubon trip at the Groveland Community Services District property on Ferretti Road in Groveland. John & Sandra Turner, Tom & Augusta Parrington, Ralph Baker and Barbara Connelly helped find 44 species.

Ralph spotted a White-throated Swift flying over the large pond for species #124 for this site. Other highlights: Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, four species of swallows, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager. There were five waterfowl with young: two Mallard families, two Wood Duck families, and one Canada Goose family.

The complete listing of birds that were sighted is available on Central Sierra Audubon's posting listserv at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS\\_Birds/message/579](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS_Birds/message/579)

**Next Board Meeting June 28**  
Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.

# House Sparrows:

## Making the Best of a Bad Situation

Do House Sparrows take over your nest boxes? If so, there's a way to make lemonade from those lemons! Because House Sparrows are a nonnative species, they are undesirable inhabitants of nest boxes in North America, but they are an easily accessible study species that can be used to address ecological questions without disturbing native birds.

Researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are currently studying this species to help better understand the enormous variation in eggshell patterns and color. House Sparrow eggs exhibit an extraordinary amount of variation. Eggshell coloration and pattern may vary with available calcium, sunlight patterns, or habitat quality, and are expected to differ seasonally and geographically as well.

You can help Cornell researchers gather information about the variation in House Sparrow eggs by submitting digital photographs of sparrow clutches so that the degree of speckling, spot size, and color tone of the eggs can be measured. Based on the variation that the researchers observe, they may find support for particular hypotheses about the underlying causes of eggshell color and patterning.

To photograph eggs, please place them on a white piece of paper next to a coin for scale. Also, clearly write the date and location (town, state, zip code) on the paper next to the eggs before photographing, or include this information in the file name. Email digital photos to Dr. Caren Cooper [caren.cooper@cornell.edu](mailto:caren.cooper@cornell.edu)

## Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Friday, July 15

The next Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup will be Friday, July 15. CSAS picks up a nearly two-mile stretch of Highway 120 near Don Pedro Reservoir. We will meet at Perko's at 7:00AM and carpool. Rain cancels. If in doubt, please call Tom Harrington one hour before the meeting time, at 694-8564.



Bent (1937) cites amusing experience of W.B. Savary, who watched an osprey catch and lose in succession four blowfish, *spheroides maculatus*, one of the four spiny-rayed saltwater fishes of the Atlantic; the fish escaped by inflating themselves until hawk's talons lost their hold and fish dropped back into water.

*The Audubon Society Encyclopedia  
of North American Birds*

# 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](http://www.centralsierraudubon.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Permit #1  
Jamestown, CA  
95327

## JUNE 2011

### Field Trip:

*Yuba Pass, Page 1*

### Program:

*Election Meeting & Potluck, Page 1*

### Inside:

*New Melones Osprey Count, Page 2*

*Monterey Bay Birding Festival, Page 2*

*House Sparrows, page 3*

### General Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)

7 PM, Tuolumne County Library

### Board Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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