



Program: Salamander Secrets Wednesday, October 19

Our guest speaker will be Sean Rovito, a postdoctoral researcher from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley. Sean is especially interested in phylogeography, speciation and niche relationships in plethodontid salamanders. His dissertation research focused on salamanders in the Sierra Nevada and on the great diversity of Central American salamanders. His presentation will focus on some of the more remarkable aspects of the Limestone Salamander and the Mt. Lyell Salamander, including the stories of their discovery, how they have been a biological mystery since they were found, and on the results of genetic work that was part of Sean's doctoral thesis. Sean will also discuss several conservation issues facing salamanders today, as well as some high-speed video of their activities.

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: *David Harden at 533-1668* or email dharden@sonnet.com.

Fall Birdhouse Sale Saturday, Oct. 15

October 15, 2011 is the date Central Sierra Audubon Society's semi-annual Birdhouse sale, held in conjunction with the Sierra Foothills Chapter of the California Native Plant Society's plant sale, at Rocca Park in Jamestown. The sale will be from 9:00AM to 1:00PM and the club will start setting up at 8:00AM.

Bird houses and bird feeders, bat houses, books, new Audubon calendars, and our club T-shirts will all be available for purchase.



Field Trip: Hayward Shoreline Eastbay Regional Park Saturday, October 29

Join us for a great day of birding along the eastern side of San Francisco Bay at Hayward Shoreline Regional Park. Late October is the height of shorebird migration as the birds return to our warmer environment from their breeding period in the cold reaches of Alaska and Canada. We are quite likely to see Scurf Scoters, Red-necked Loons, Horned Grebes, and Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, Black Bellied, Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Dunlin and other sandpipers or "peeps". We will also see a selection of ducks and perhaps even a Merlin or Peregrine Falcon if we're lucky.



Horned Grebe, winter plumage

Our guide will be experienced Bay Area birder Rich Cimino, who selected this date so that the high tide timing will suit our schedule. Depending on who participates we may carpool from Sonora at 8AM, or meet Rich at I-580/Santa Rita at 10.30 AM to carpool from there, or meet on location in Hayward at 11AM. Dress in layers since it can be windy along the shore line and bring lunch and fluids, while binoculars, scope and/or camera will enhance your day. The round-trip observation walk will end between 2pm – 3pm so that you can return to the Sonora or Murphys areas around 4pm or 5pm. Further details plus map will be provided via email as we approach the trip date. If you wish to participate, please contact *Barry Boulton at (209)795-8225* or email me at barryboulton@earthlink.net (mention Hayward Field Trip in the subject line because your email will initially enter my Suspected Spam inbox!).

Report on Decline of Bird Populations

In its 40 year assessment of bird populations, Audubon shows the following figures for the decline of certain species:

Evening Grosbeak: down 97% since 1967

Principal threats: logging, mining, drilling, climate change, acid rain, destruction of forest lands—

Loggerhead Shrike: down 72% since 1967

Principal threats: intensive agriculture and loss of habitat—

Northern Pintail: down 71% since 1967

Principal threat: intensive agriculture—

Greater Scaup: down 75% since 1967

Principal threats: climate change affecting Arctic breeding grounds, development along coastal areas—

Field Sparrow: down 62% since 1967

Principal threat: Loss of open fields--

Source: <http://birds.audubon.org>

Conservation

Tuolumne River Watershed Threatened by Water Bottling

An existing company owned by a Scott Fahey currently sells water from a private spring in the Tuolumne River watershed which is trucked to the Valley for bottling. His company is requesting that both the State Water Board and U. S. Forest Service approve his proposal to divert 40 gallons per minute (year-round) from two National Forest springs that are important sources of water for Hull Creek in the Clavey River watershed, which is part of the Tuolumne River Watershed. The Clavey River was designated by the Forest Service as the only Critical Aquatic Refuge on the entire Stanislaus National Forest.



No studies have been made over any reasonable period of time, including years of drought, to determine the effect of such a diversion of approximately 80% of the flow of these springs. Spring water that flows downstream is essential for a variety of amphibians and other species that depend upon moist habitat conditions, including the American Dipper, Kingfisher, and other aquatic species.

The State Water Board has approved this application without further studies, but the Forest Service has yet to make its decision. If approved, the proposal to take spring water would result in a new pipeline across National Forest land, reduce natural water flow to less than 20% of current flows, and increase trucking taking water from the Sierra to the Valley.

Because of the potential conflict of the proposed spring diversions with the intent and mandate for managing the Clavey watershed critical aquatic refuge, the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center has led the opposition to this proposed diversion and requested further environmental review before action is taken. On behalf of Central Sierra Audubon Society, I wrote to both the Water Board and Forest Service objecting to the taking of such spring water.

—Tom Parrington

APOLOGIES

In our notice about the snail-mail/email change, Jeanne Ridgley's name was misspelled in her email address. Note that the name is RidgLEY, and her email address is:

jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net

Our apologies to those who may have wondered why their emails were coming back! ---The editor

Your Audubon Board:

Rick Baird, President	532-4323
David Harden, 1st Vice President, Programs	533-1668
Tom Parrington, 2nd Vice President, Conservation	928-3835
Tom Harrington, Secretary	694-8564
Janet Maffei, Treasurer	532-8426
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Pamela Blair, Education	533-1668
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Tracy Webster, Publicity	533-1559
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
Joyce Schieferstein, Scholarships	586-1680

October Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6 PM
Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.

Twain Harte Community Garden

Ground was recently broken at the new community garden site in Twain Harte. Employees of the Twain Harte Community Services District and Tracy and Clay Knopf, members of the community-organized Garden Association group, worked together to install the water line needed at the garden site in Eproson Park, a major step in making the garden a reality.

The Twain Harte Community Garden will provide a secure place to garden (fenced to protect from vandalism and deer), with each member having their own raised garden bed. Up to twenty-five 4-foot by 8-foot raised beds will fit into the area provided.

Twain Harte is a mountain town that lacks gardening space for many, as a lot of people have tall trees on their property that shade out the ground below. Fresh, local food can be hard to access in this region, and the THCG provides a chance for residents to grow their own for a small annual fee (approximately \$20 to help cover water expenses).

The THCG is now fundraising in order to get all the materials necessary to make the garden a reality. Major items such as fencing and lumber are needed, as well as smaller items like hardware and garden tools.

If you would like to help, please contact **Clay at 586-9581** or **Julia at 840-3517**.

◀ Join our Listserv at ▶

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS_Birds/

Get informed about recent local sightings

Members are encouraged to post recent sightings, ask questions, and exchange information on birds and birding of Central Sierra Audubon Society's region of California.

This club would like to build up a database of sightings, and your participation is needed. It is very easy to join: merely send an email to **CSASbird@gmail.com**, and request to join the CSAS_Birds ListServ. I will send you an "invitation" and then all you do is click on the line to join. It's that easy! If you have any questions, just email me.

— *John Turner, CSASbird@gmail.com*

Bird Walk, Ironstone Winery Sunday, October 16

Please join us for another bird walk in the delightful grounds of Ironstone Winery in Murphys, led by John Turner and Barry Boulton. We have enjoyed several



—Barry Boulton Photo

Acorn Woodpecker

such walks at the winery and we have always seen many bird species. We will surely be regaled by the antics of the comedic busy bodies of the bird world — the Acorn Woodpeckers, with their constant activity, chatter, and granary work. Meet us in front of the tasting room entrance area at 9AM with binoculars and/or cameras. Any questions, call **Barry Boulton at (209)795-8225**.

Editor Needed

Central Sierra Audubon Society is looking for a volunteer editor for our newsletter, which is issued 10 months of the year. Basic computer skills are necessary, but we will train you in computer functions specific to the newsletter. The position involves setting deadlines for board members to submit articles, basic editing of articles, selection of the month's materials, layout of pages, and submission of copy to printer. Editor may also submit an article per issue if desired. For information contact Kate Sim at 209-728-9022 or katesim@att.net.



As the time to migrate nears, the shorebirds rise and form huge flocks and veer apart in small ones, accumulating in the air again like bits of mercury, alighting for a quick moment before breaking away anew. They are frantic to be off, yet the last impulse has not come that will whirl them from the shore and send them spinning to the altitudes, perhaps three miles in the air, that are best suited to the spanning of the earth.

—*The Wind Birds, Peter Matthiessen*

SIERRA SQUAWKER

Central Sierra Audubon Society

(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

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October 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 _____

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