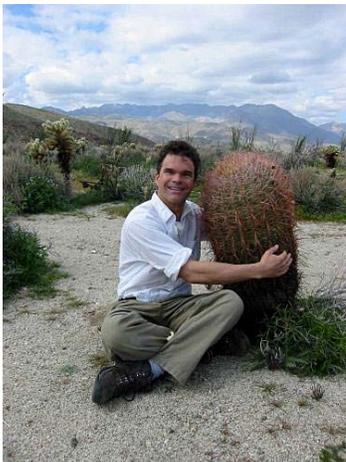




## Program: March 21 Deep Observation

Our guest speaker for the March general meeting will be perennial favorite, John Muir Laws. Naturalist, educator and artist, John (Jack) Muir Laws delights in exploring the natural world and sharing this love with others. Since 1984 Laws has worked as an environmental educator in California, Wyoming and Alaska. He teaches classes on natural history, conservation biology, scientific illustration, and field sketching. He is trained as a wildlife

biologist and is an associate of the California Academy of Sciences. Laws has written and illustrated books about the natural history of California, including *Sierra Birds: a Hiker's Guide*, *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, and *The Laws Pocket Guide Set to the San Francisco Bay Area*.



How can you see more when observing nature? How can you remember what you see in greater detail? Jack's topic this month, "Deep Observation," will teach proven tricks and techniques for seeing details that your brain would otherwise ignore. You will see nature more deeply and get more out of your time in the wild. Plus he will show us a few great nature sketching tricks and share some wild stories of adaptation of Sierra Nevada species.

Please come join us for this delightful evening at 7PM, March 21st, at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora. As always, the public is welcome and goodies will be served after the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact **David Harden** at 533-1668 or email David at [dharden@sonnet.com](mailto:dharden@sonnet.com).

## Field Trip: March 18 San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge

For this trip we will join a group from the Stanislaus Audubon Society under the leadership of Bill Amundsen. This group has special visitation privileges not accorded to the general public, which means that we will visit areas that are normally closed. This trip requires a very early start, but is well worth doing. The Stanislaus meeting place is the Stanislaus Library parking lot, in back, at 1500 I Street, Modesto at 7AM. If you're interested in car-pooling from Sonora or Arnold/Murphys, please let me know so that I can coordinate. **Barry Boulton**, 795-8225 or email [barryboulton@earthlink.net](mailto:barryboulton@earthlink.net)

## Birds & Gardens Tuesday, March 6 at 6PM

Board members John Turner and Barry Boulton will give a presentation to the Sonora Master Gardeners on birds that are of particular interest to the gardening community. They will talk about typical backyard birds



of the Sierra foothills, both residents and migrants, how to attract them, their sensitivities and so on. The presentation, open to the general public, will be at 6PM at the Senior Center in Sonora.

**March Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2PM**  
**Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.**

# BABY BIRD SEASON IS COMING!



## Conservation

### Biological Resources Review Guide Revisions for Tuolumne County

A reminder that comments on the proposed revisions to the Biological Resources Review Guide are required by the deadline of March 9<sup>th</sup> set by the Tuolumne County Supervisors. In summary, the proposed changes will significantly weaken existing protections for wildlife and allow greater fragmentation of wildlife habitat. The recent article titled *Oak tree lands an intricate network*, by Vera Stradler, U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, in the February 9, 2012 issue of the Union Democrat, beautifully describes the unique and fragile environment provided by our oak woodlands and trees.

Revisions especially will impact habitat which is classified as Third Priority in the Guide. Such areas include more of the common undeveloped land such as blue oak/gray pine, Sierran mixed conifer and chaparral. Protection of such areas could be reduced by as much as 80%.

Protections for old growth oak are proposed to be reduced by changing the size of blue oaks now designated as heritage oaks from trees having a 12" trunk diameter to only those of 18" diameter or greater. Intrusions allowed beneath oaks, which can damage the sensitive oak root system, are greatly increased in the proposed revision.

Further reduction of mitigation measures for new development are added for so called "urban areas" which are either not defined or defined too broadly to afford adequate habitat protection.

Comments should be addressed to:  
Chairman Dick Pland & Supervisors, Tuolumne County,  
2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370  
A copy should be sent to Beverly Shane, Director of Community Development at the same address. If you have any questions, please contact our Conservation Chair, **Tom Parrington, Vice President at 928-3835.**

### Adopt-a-Highway, March 23

On January 27, John Turner, David Harden and Tom Harrington conducted the bi-monthly cleanup on Hwy 49/120 and made the roadway beautiful again. They also picked up \$14.00+ value of recyclables (and a bowling ball belonging to "Les").

If you'd like to join us next time, March 23 is the date. Meet at Perko's to carpool at 7:30AM, and we should be back to Perko's before 10AM. If weather is questionable, call **Tom Harrington at 694-8564** before 7AM. If you'd like to donate the value of your recyclables to CSAS, tell them it's for Sierra Audubon. Thanks.

### 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: **Rose Wolf 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**

# Scholarships

We are looking forward to interviewing scholarship applicants from Columbia College in early March. We will choose the most qualified applicant who will be graduating and going on to a four-year college for a degree in earth science. We have had some outstanding recipients in the past and hope to continue offering financial assistance. It is thanks to the Bird House sales and donations that we are able to help these deserving students.

**Apologies:** to Steve Stocking — we left out his byline for his review of David Lukas's new book in the February issue...

**Thanks:** to Guy Van Cleave, Pamela Blair and David Harden for their generous donations to CSAS...

**Reminders: Crane Festival,** March 15-18, Kearney, Nebraska, (402)797-2301

**Nome, Alaska** — Rich Cimino has openings on his June 21 trip to Nome, Alaska. Cost is \$2400.00, \$150.00 of which is a donation to CSAS. This covers lodging, ground transportation, airport transfers and guide services. Not included are airfare and meals. The tours are limited to four participants. For a detailed itinerary contact Rich at (925) 353-0266 or [yellowbilledtours@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbilledtours@gmail.com) or visit the website [www.yellowbilledtours.com](http://www.yellowbilledtours.com)

## 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
Barry Boulton, Field Trips	795-8225
Jeanne Ridgley, Membership	962-7598
Pamela Blair, Education	533-1668
Kate Sim, Newsletter	728-9022
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

# Field Trip Report

## Salt Springs Valley & Reservoir

Seven birders made this trip on an absolutely beautiful day! We started at the pond at the beginning of Rock Creek Road which held many coots and ducks. Soon after we left the road we were treated to a Merlin, then a Prairie Falcon (we interrupted its breakfast which it transported to a tree farther away), and then a Kestrel. Western Bluebirds and Yellow-billed Magpies were a treat as we neared the Salt Springs Reservoir. The Ruddy Ducks were thick on the water. Canvasbacks were evident across the arm of the lake as we neared the Campground. While we were having lunch at the marina we were treated to six immature Bald Eagles way across the lake as they flew and swooped on each other. It was quite a display. The final show of the day took place as we were going back to our cars. We were at the marina office and noticed a Great Egret about 50 yards away. We were looking at some Pipits directly behind it when it shot out its neck and retrieved a gopher! —Steve Umland

## New Website

If you haven't recently visited our website, take a look: [www.centralsierraudubon.org](http://www.centralsierraudubon.org) Temporarily, there is a welcoming page which leads to the opening page of our new site.

The banner at the top has Lumbert Dome, which soars 800 feet above Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. Below that, on the left side of the page, are links to the pages: Meetings, Field Trips, Other Events, etc. The current newsletter is available, along with past issues, on the Newsletter page. Drop an email to [csasbird@gmail.com](mailto:csasbird@gmail.com) for comments you may have.



However diverse the avian world's breeding systems, monogamy is practiced by 90% of the birds on our planet. This doesn't mean necessarily that birds "marry" and grow old together...Monogamy may simply entail two birds coming together, raising a brood, and then going their separate ways, only to mate the next year with a new partner....In some species who mate for life, there appears to be a strong tie between the pair. Most albatrosses, petrels, Manx Shearwaters, geese, swans, Common Terns, Barn Owls, Adélie penguins, and many parrots have long-term pair bonds, some of which last until death. *The Lives of Birds, Lester L. Short*

# 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

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## March 2012

### Field Trip

*San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, Page 1*

### Program

*Jack Laws, "Deep Observation", Page 1*

### Presentation

*Garden Birds, Page 1*

### Conservation, Page 2

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*New website, Page 3*

### General Meetings

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

### Board Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 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 **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**C2ZC440Z**