



Program: April 18 Geology of the Mother Lode

Our guest speaker for April 18 will be Dr. John Kramer, Hydrogeologist with Condor Earth Technologies. He will describe the evolution of the Mother Lode through plate tectonics to show the origins of massive sulfide deposits in Copperopolis, vein quartz in Jamestown, and the extraordinarily rich ancient placer deposits exploited by the 49ers in the Gold Rush.

After extensive experience working as a geologist in the Rocky Mountains, Kramer joined Condor in 1994, when he returned to the Sierra foothills to raise his family.

Come join us for this fascinating program at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora at 7 PM, Wednesday, April 18. The public is welcome and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

For more information contact **David Harden**, 533-1668 or e-mail dharden@sonnet.com



Birdhouse Sale!

April 21 CSAS's Spring Bird House Sale will take place in Rocca Park, in downtown Jamestown. The hours are 9 AM to 1 PM. Setup begins at 8 AM, and volunteers are needed to help with the sale. Also, if you can make a bird

house or bat house that we can add to our sale inventory — that would be great!

For plans, or wood, or to volunteer, please call **Tom Harrington**, 694-8564 or **John Turner**, 852-2348.

April 15 — An additional sale of CSAS bird items will be held at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds during the "Craft and Peddler Fair, Chili Cook-off and Salsa Contest" from 9 AM to 4 PM. Come by to taste the goodies, and help at the CSAS booth. Entry is free.

April Field Trips: GCSD & Moccasin Creek

Wednesday, April 4

Groveland Community Services District

Leader Jeanne Ridgley has been birding there since November 2007 and has seen a total of 128 species. The property covers an area of more than 200 acres of oak, pine and willow habitat with three water storage ponds. The walk will be 2-3 hours. Jeanne will meet the group in the GCSD parking lot at 8:00 AM. From Groveland, driving on Highway 120, turn left on Ferretti



Photo: Barry Boulton

Wood Duck

Rd and just past Two Guys Pizza, turn left into the driveway for GCSD and proceed to the parking lot. This field trip will be held the first Wednesday of every month, weather permitting.

Sunday, April 22 — Moccasin Creek

And Groveland Community Services District

Jeanne Ridgley, CSAS Board Member, will lead a visit to these two locations. She has been observing them for some years and is familiar with all of the species that we might see. We will walk along Moccasin Creek to Lake Don Pedro where in a year we have identified 92 species. We will then drive to the GCSD parking lot where will walk through oak, pine and willow habitat. In the large sewer pond, there are three Wood Duck boxes and we may see Wood Duck families. Jeanne will meet the group at 8 AM at Moccasin Creek. Traveling to Groveland on Hwy 120, turn left on the spur road opposite Hwy 49 at the bottom of Priest Grade. Drive a short distance to the Pump House and park. Contact: Jeanne Ridgley, 962-7598 home, 510 468-3991, cell or email: jeanneridgley1@sbcglobal.net.

All CSAS field trips are open to the public. Please bring drinking water, a lunch and/or snacks. Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, a sun screen, and insect repellent are recommended for all trips. Dressing in layers may be advisable for this trip. Binoculars are a must, bird books are helpful. Heavy rain will cancel, and if there is any doubt, call the leader above.

New Melones Spring Series



Join us for Reclamation's Interpretive Speaker and Hike Series this Spring at New Melones Lake. All activities are free of charge, suitable for all ages, and most don't require reservations. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and clothing suitable for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Each of our Speaker Series programs is partnered with a corresponding activity.

■ Mushrooms of New Melones Lake Speaker Series Friday April 6, 6 pm, New Melones Visitor Center

Join Ranger Hilary in discovering some of the fungi around us. Learn about their importance, identification, habitats, life cycles and dangers. Arts and crafts begin at 6 pm followed by a PowerPoint presentation at 7 pm. Please join us for a Mushroom Hike on Saturday, April 7 at 10 am.

■ Mushrooms of New Melones Lake Hike Saturday April 7, 10 am, Table Mountain

Join Ranger Hilary in a hunt for fungi. We will hike the base of Table Mountain to identify the different species we find along this easy 2 mile trail. Participants will have the option of returning on their own or participating in a climb to the top to enjoy the grand view of New Melones Lake. We will meet at the corner of Rawhide Road and Shell Road at 10 am.

■ Wildflowers of the Mother Lode Speaker Series Friday April 13, 6 pm, New Melones Visitor Center

We will discover many of the wildflower species that are in full bloom this time of year around the Mother Lode. Learn their life cycles, importance and where the viewing hot spots are around New Melones Lake. Arts and crafts begin at 6 pm followed by a PowerPoint presentation at 7 pm. Please join us for our Wildflower Hike on Sunday, April 15 at 10 am.

■ Wildflowers of the Mother Lode Hike Sunday April 15, 10 am, Angels Creek, Glory Hole Recreation Area

Let's move outside and enjoy a springtime hike. Learn how to identify some of the wildflowers that blanket the Mother Lode this time of year! This is a moderate 2.5 mile hike. We will meet at the Glory Hole Entrance Station at 10 am and then caravan down to the Angels Creek trailhead. Participants will receive a parking pass for the duration of the event.

■ Trees and Shrubs of California Speaker Series Friday April 27, 7 pm New Melones Visitor Center

In celebration of Arbor Day learn how to identify many of the trees and shrubs found at New Melones Lake. We will discuss how their use plays an important role in our past, present and future. Come plant trees and take a hike with us in celebration of Arbor Day on Sunday, April 29, 10 am!

■ Arbor Day Oak Tree Planting and Hike Sunday April 29, 10 am Tuttletown Recreation Area

Assist Ranger Cindy in planting 20 Oak Tree seedlings in the Manzanita Campground. Then join in for a hike to discuss the many trees that grow at New Melones Lake. We will meet at the Tuttletown Entrance Station at 10 am and then caravan down to the planting sites. Participants will receive a parking pass for the duration of the event..

■ Birds of New Melones Speaker Series Friday May 4, 6 pm New Melones Visitor Center

Join Ranger Hilary in discovering the wonderful world of bird watching. Learn about flight patterns, migrations, calls and identification. Arts and crafts begin at 6 pm followed by a PowerPoint presentation at 7 pm. Please join us on our Birding Hike on Saturday, May 5 at 10 am.

■ Bird Watching at New Melones Hike Saturday May 5, 10 am Table Mountain

Join Ranger Hilary in discovering the wonderful world of bird watching. We will hike, searching for and identifying the many species of birds that make New Melones their home. This is an easy 2 mile trail that leads to the base of Table Mountain. Participants will have the option of returning on their own or participating in a climb to the top to enjoy the grand view of New Melones Lake. Be sure to bring binoculars, a camera and lunch for this hike! We will meet at the corner of Shell Road and Rawhide Road at 10 am.

For additional information on activities, directions, pet restrictions, or other questions, please call 209-536-9543, (TTY 800-877-8339)

May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 6 PM

Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.

Field Trip Report

March 18, San Joaquin River NWR

On a cold Sunday morning in sight of snow on the Mount Hamilton range with an Arctic wind cutting to the bone, three intrepid CSAS members joined local guide Bill Amundsen of Stanislaus Audubon for what turned out to be a very good birding day. We were unable to bird the Beckwith Road area because the roads were closed for a 5K/10K run.



Photo: Barry Boulton

American White Pelican

At the Refuge HQ just about the first thing we came across was a beaver, although it was very skittish and so most of us saw just a set of ripples. Nearby, the Red-winged Blackbird males were very much in evidence with their plaintive cries for attention accompanied with fluttering wings and epaulettes, while a Belted Kingfisher was kicking up his own racket. We encountered another Kingfisher in a different area who circled round and round, clacking noisily as if to say “get out of my domain”. So we did, off to White Lake where the American White Pelicans with their enormous mandible protuberances and head plumes, shown here, inspected us more than once. I suppose they’re pretty on edge right now as they prepare to depart for their breeding grounds to do battle for this year’s mate.

There were a few Western Grebes, lots of Coots and Black-necked Stilts, a Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal along with the occasional Shoveler and Mallard. We had expected to see Warblers, but none turned up. A Wren was heard but it chose to stay hidden too. In the bushes a Spotted Towhee practiced its foraging shuffle and appeared satisfied with the results. We were perhaps rather lucky to see four Swallow species – Barn, Rough-winged, Tree and Violet-green. Of course we saw the occasional Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows – plus a jack-rabbit and an endangered brush rabbit or two. All in all it was a good day.



Provided that they fill certain criteria, apparently unlikely man-made materials may be used [for nesting]. Numerous examples give testimony for acceptable substitutes for twigs, dead leaves, branches and other natural elements regularly used in nest building: a Warbling Vireo nest built almost entirely of tissues; a Chihuahuan Raven nest built completely of barbed wire; a colony of Double-crested Cormorants that used a sunken vessel to supply their nests with pocket knives, men’s pipes, hairpins and ladies’ combs; the regular use of multicolored yarn (Baltimore Oriole), paper (Blue Jay) and rags (Northern Mockingbird) for nests in suburban areas; Ospreys which used cast-offs such as bath towels, old shoes, bottles, fishnets and metal cans in their nests; a Bullock’s oriole that had green Easter basket grass and monofilament line integrated into a nest; a Blue Grosbeak nest made almost entirely from newspaper; a Western Kingbird nest with a large collection of cigarette butts and filters; a nest of Canyon Wrens built entirely of supplies gleaned from nearby offices, including paper clips, fasteners, matches, toothpicks and rubber bands; and the regular use of plastic insulation and cellophane as a probable substitute for snakeskin in the nests of some flycatchers and titmice. *Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds*, Baicich and Harrison

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

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Central Sierra Audubon Society

(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

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April 2012

Field Trip

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General Meetings

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

Board Meetings

1st 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**)*

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