



## Program: May 16 Breeding Behavior of Local Birds

As we know, springtime – the breeding season – is an extremely active and stressful time for birds as they condense what we accomplish over many years into just a few months. Many must



Photo Barry Boulton

### Nesting Robin

establish a territory, find a mate, raise a family of young and then wean them to independence, all in that short season. During this time different species exhibit a range of behaviors that mirror human activities very closely. Such behaviors include committed parenting, courageous defense of the family, monogamy, less-than-perfect-monogamy, flaunting of assets to impress other males and females and so on.

Local CSAS members John Turner and Barry Boulton will discuss the behaviors of some of our local breeding birds using photos they have taken over the past few years. John has been an active member on the Board of CSAS for many years, while Barry has been a relatively recent addition. During Barry's tenure on the Board, he wrote the weekly "Bird Watch" articles published in the Union Democrat over the last three years.

Join us in the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora at 7PM, Wednesday, May 16th. As usual the public is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

## Nome, Alaska Trip

Rich Cimino has two openings on the Nome, Alaska Birding Trip on June 12-16. Cost per person is \$2400.00, which includes a \$150.00 donation to CSAS. Lodging, ground transportation, airport transfers, and guide services are included, airfare and meals are not. The tour is limited to four participants. For more information please contact Rich Cimino at **925 353-0266**, [yellowbilledtours@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbilledtours@gmail.com) or visit the website [www.yellowbilledtours.com](http://www.yellowbilledtours.com)

## Field Trips: Groveland Community Services District

### Wednesday, May 2

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 GCS D parking lot at 8:00 AM. From Groveland, driving on Highway 120, turn left on Ferretti Rd, and just past Two Guys Pizza, turn left into the driveway for GCS D and proceed to the parking lot. This field trip will be held the first Wednesday of every month, weather permitting.

## Turlock Lake State Park Saturday, May 12

John Turner and Barry Boulton will lead a field trip to this State Park that should provide views of many species given the rich and varied habitats. We'll meet at 9AM at the parking lot just off Highway 132 where it crosses the river by a concrete bridge. This is the start of Lake Road that, birding as we go, we'll take down to the lake and campground.

## ◀ Join our Listserv at ▶

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS\\_Birds/](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: just send an email to me at [CSASbird@gmail.com](mailto: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

# New Melones Programs



## Conservation

### Logging in the

### Stanislaus National Forest

The contentious issues over logging in both our National Forests and privately owned forests continue. In the Stanislaus Forest, timber harvesting is projected to be down in 2012 to approximately 21.5 million board feet compared to as much as 38 million board feet as recently as 2010 as reported in the April 12, 2012 issue of the Union Democrat. Budget reductions have limited the Forest Service's ability to fund more than four thinning projects, although more were planned. By comparison, according to John Buckley of Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC), a "Stewardship Plan" is being promoted by the timber industry, TuCARE, and Tuolumne County, which would result in 50,000 acres of increased logging over the next 10 years on top of what the Forest Service already plans to do.

The environmental groups who have been participating in a Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions collaborative process have made it clear to the pro-logging supporters that they jointly oppose that Stewardship Plan. Sierra Forest Legacy, CSERC, and the Sierra Club are open to allowing more logging if it is done in a scientifically valid manner, but don't want local county supervisors, local county schools personnel or some other pro-timber industry group being the responsible party in charge of what happens on public forest lands.

Currently clear cutting large areas is not allowed in the Stanislaus National Forest, which is owned by the Federal government. For private forest land, clear cutting is allowed under California law and has continued. The removal of 95% or more of the trees from a hillside, combined with bulldozing and chemical treatments, often adds up to harm for wildlife, diminished plant diversity, and contaminated streams and rivers. The Sierra Club has started an anti-clear cutting campaign in private forests, although there appears to be no political will in the Legislature to battle over trying to end clear cutting. The Sierra Club petition/letter writing effort is directed toward Governor Brown, although he has not evidenced any great interest in environmental preservation during his current term.

*Tom Parrington, Vice President and Chair of Conservation*

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY, MAY 18

If you'd like to join us on May 18, we will carpool from Perkos at 7:30am and return by 10:00am. If the weather is doubtful, call Tom Harrington, **694-8564**, before 7:00am. Should be some nice wildflowers to enjoy along the highway

### Birds of New Melones Speaker Series

**Friday May 4, 6 pm**

**New Melones Visitor Center and Museum**

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.

### Awesome Arachnids! Speaker Series

**Friday May 11, 6 pm**

**New Melones Visitor Center and Museum**

Spiders are awesome! Learn about these amazing creatures and just how important they really are to your own existence. Arts and crafts begin at 6 pm followed by a PowerPoint presentation at 7 pm. Don't miss our Awesome Arachnids Hike on Saturday, May 12 at 10 am!

### Awesome Arachnids! Hike

**Saturday May 12, 10 am**

**Cougar Point Trail, Tuttletown Recreation Area**

You may not like them in your house, but spiders are an important part of the ecosystem. Come and discover how many different species we can find along the Cougar Point trail in Tuttletown Recreation Area. This is an easy 2 mile hike. We will meet at the Tuttletown Entrance Station at 10 am and then caravan down to the trailhead. Participants will receive a parking pass for the duration of the event.

**For additional information on activities, directions, pet restrictions, or other questions, please call**

**209-536-9543, (TTY 800-877-8339).**

## Bird Behavior and More

Bird behavior is quite fascinating, but it tends to take a lot of time to observe what's happening and to interpret what we see. Cornell has an excellent series of short videos on YouTube entitled "Inside Birding" that offer much insight into these topics and are well worth watching. If you go to this URL <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owZ6bonrOjA&feature=relmfu> you'll see one entitled "Behavior". There, you'll see that similar videos are offered, and you can view other Cornell sequences entitled "Color Pattern", "Size & Shape" and "Habitat". There are two other sequences that I highly recommend: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufkcx-UqIjM&feature=relmfu>. Here, you'll learn more about the irruptive habits of Snowy Owls; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yps7pgq1TAK&feature=related>. Here you'll see a fabulous BBC video of a Great Gray Owl hunting a lemming in snow-covered terrain; the videography is amazing.

## Birdhouse Sales

Many thanks to all who helped make the Bird House sale on April 21 a great success. The sale of 25 bird houses plus numerous books and other items resulted in \$877 in funds for our scholarship and education programs. Now our craftspeople who make the various types of bird and bat houses and feeders will need to go back to work to get ready for the October sale. Thanks again--it was a great team effort.

—Tom Harrington

### 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

## Northern Shoveler's Bill

As you know, the Northern Shoveler has an enormous bill – hence the name! But that size and shape are optimized through natural selection for its style of feeding. As a dabbling duck that skims primarily aquatic invertebrates off the water's surface, it uses a comb-like structure in its bill to strain out and separate the invertebrates from the water and mud. With that large bill, it has around 220 fine "teeth" or lamellae on its lower mandible, and 180 on the upper. You can see the lamellae in this photo that I shot during our trip to the Cosumnes Refuge last November.



—Barry Boulton

**May Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 2, 6 PM**  
**Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.**

**June Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 29, 7 PM**  
**Library Community Room, Sonora**

The major business of this meeting will be election of officers and directors.

There will also be a program, but there will not be a potluck this year, due to lack of available facilities.



Greatest number of broods raised in one year: Zebra Finch with 21; fastest to breeding maturity: common quail at 5 weeks; slowest to breeding maturity: royal and wandering albatrosses at 6-10 years; slowest breeder: albatross, with one chick every 2 to 3 years.

—David M. Bird, *The Bird Almanac*

# SIERRA SQUAWKER

Central Sierra Audubon Society

(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

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Sonora, CA 95370

209-532-0570

www.centralsierraudubon.org

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Permit #1  
Jamestown, CA  
95327

## May 2012

### Field Trip

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### 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.)

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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**C2ZC440Z**