



## Annual Elections! June General Meeting Wednesday, June 20, 7PM

Please join us for our last General Meeting until September. The major business of this meeting will be election of officers and directors. Due to a lack of facilities, there will be no potluck this year. **But we will have an exciting program (see next column).** Following are the candidates for next year's positions:

President	<b>David Harden</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President –	<b>Dan Ward</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice president –	
Conservation	Tom Parrington
Secretary	Tom Harrington
Treasurer	<b>Rick Baird</b>
Past President	Rick Baird
Director -- Field Trips	<b>Ken Smith</b>
Director – Membership	Jeanne Ridgley
Director – Newsletter Editor	<b>Irv Logan</b>
Director – Education Chair	Pamela Blair
Director – Publicity	<b>Jan Jorn-Baird</b>

**(Bold Type indicates new person in position)**

The meeting will be held in the Library Community Room on Greenley Road in Sonora.

## Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

**Our next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will be held on Friday, July 27. Meet at Perko's at 7:30AM to carpool. If weather is questionable, call Tom Harrington before 7:00am, 694-8564**

**Thank you all volunteers!**

## Program: June 20 Meltdown: The rise and recent fall of Sierra Nevada glaciers

From the sheer cliffs of Yosemite Valley to the rounded domes of Tuolumne Meadows, glaciers are responsible for much of Yosemite National Park's



—Photo by David Harden

### Yosemite Valley

iconic landforms. Glaciers have come and gone from the Yosemite landscape for millions of years, but the present retreat of the park's few remaining glaciers is unique. Join Greg Stock, Yosemite National Park's geologist, for a presentation on the Sierra Nevada's rich glacial history and how that history is being affected by modern-day climate change.

Greg Stock is the first-ever Yosemite National Park geologist, and has studied and interpreted the geology of the Sierra Nevada for over 12 years. He holds B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in geology, has authored or co-authored over 50 papers and abstracts on Sierra Nevada geology, and is co-author of the book *Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park*. He lives in Yosemite Valley with his wife Sarah and daughter Autumn.

# From the President

It's hard to believe 2 years have already gone by since I became President of CSAS. They have been great years. We have had an extremely good Board. Several new Board members have been added and they have all done a great job. We really appreciate all the assistance from the membership without whom CSAS wouldn't be the great organization it is.

We have an election coming up at the June General Meeting. The proposed slate of officers has several changes in positions and several new Board members. Dan Ward as First Vice-President, Irv Logan as Newsletter Editor, and Jan Jorn-Baird taking over Publicity are the potential new faces on the Board. David Harden is up for President, I am up for Treasurer. Pamela Blair as Education Chair, Jeanne Ridgley as Membership Chair, Tom Harrington as Secretary, Tom Parrington as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Conservation Chair will complete the Board if elected in June. As well as being President, David Harden will also handle getting programs for the General Meetings.

We are going to miss several Board members who all have made tremendous contributions to CSAS over a period of time.

**Kate Sim, our current Newsletter Editor,** has unfortunately come down with a progressive muscular illness, which will keep her very close to her home in the future. She has been the Editor for the past 2 years and done a marvelous job with the *Squawker*. This will be her last *Squawker*. Kate has always been cheerful, with good ideas, and as Editor has continued the good reputation of our *Squawker*. She has assured us she will be available to assist Irv Logan whenever he needs some help. She hopes to be able to attend many of our General Meetings this coming year. We hope so too, and hope and pray that all goes well for her as she handles her health issues in the future. **Kate, a HUGE THANKS for all you have done for CSAS and its membership these past two years. We will all miss you!**

**John Turner and Barry Boulton** will also be leaving the Board. John has been "Mr. Audubon" for the past 10 years or so, and has been involved in every aspect of the Chapter. He and his wife, Sandra, have decided it is time to do some traveling. As such, they are taking some time off from CSAS. We will miss them and look forward to their return to CSAS with some great pictures and programs of their travels.

Barry has done so many things also. His weekly columns in the Union Democrat have been widely read and introduced many in the Sonora area to CSAS. He did publicity for the chapter as well as being our Field Trip Chair this past year. He leaves big shoes to fill in our organization. Barry is now spending most of his time in Patterson instead of Arnold. The travel time just makes it most difficult to maintain his CSAS activities. We still

hope to see a lot of Barry this coming year, even if he is no longer on the Board.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to **Janet Maffei,** our Treasurer this past year. She stepped in when we really needed a treasurer and did a fine job.

We look forward to having another great year with our members and new Board working closely together. We hope to see you at the June General Meeting.

**Rick Baird, President**



## Summer Events

### **Bird Walks with Jeanne Ridgley:**

The first Wednesday of every month Jeanne Ridgley will lead a birding walk at the Groveland Community Services property at 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland. Walks are scheduled on June 6, July 4, Aug. 1 and Sept. 5. The property encompasses an area of more than 200 acres of oak, pine and willow habitat with three water storage ponds. 131 species of birds have been seen there since November of 2007

Jeanne will meet the group in the GCSD parking lot at 8:00 AM. Bring binoculars and a birding field guide if you have one. Rain will cancel the trip. If you have any questions, call Jeanne at **962-7598**.

### **Annual New Melones Osprey Count, June 23:**

On Saturday, June 23, New Melones Lake will host its annual Osprey Count. 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.

We need volunteer birders and boats. For more information, and to sign up, please call us at **(209) 536-9094, ext. 217** and ask for Cynthia Watson. Email: [creppond@usbr.gov](mailto:creppond@usbr.gov)

### Your Audubon Board:

Rick Baird, President	532-1106
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: May 12 Turlock Lake State Park and Area

For the Saturday May 12 field trip, we met at the parking lot just below the Basso Bridge on Lake Road, off Highway 132. While waiting for the carpool group to arrive from Sonora, Jeanne Ridgley and I flushed a Green Heron from the pond behind the parking lot. The group of eight started our birding right there. There were hundreds of Cliff Swallows nesting under the newer concrete bridge that crosses the Tuolumne River. Janet Maffei spotted a nest up in a nearby tree and we saw a Red-shouldered Hawk noisily fly to the nest. A Belted Kingfisher also gave its rattled call as it flew overhead just as the group left the area to drive west on Lake Road.

Our first stop was at the Fishing Access Inlet where a canal brings water from the Tuolumne River into the eastern end of Turlock Lake. As we drove in, a Loggerhead Shrike was spotted on a power line. In walking about, we saw a pair of Eared Grebes in breeding plumage, also a pair of Spotted Sandpipers showing their bright spotted breasts. There was a young Common Merganser and a few Gadwalls on the water, and flying overhead was a sizeable number of Forster's Terns flying and hovering while emitting their distinctive buzzy call. A pair of brightly-colored American Goldfinches seemed to be racing the cars as they sped ahead through the weeds that lined the road. We continued along Lake Road and saw several Osprey nests atop the tall power towers, and Canada Geese with their many goslings in ponds just before turning into the state park picnic and camping area by the Tuolumne River.

It was mid-day and mostly quiet, with the exception of House Wrens and Yellow-billed Magpies calling out. While having our lunches we saw Spotted and California Towhees, Bullock's Orioles, and Ash-throated Flycatchers. The group was surprised to see a Northern Flicker and a bit dismayed to see a Eurasian collared-dove, an exotic, introduced species. Continuing along Lake Road we crossed the river at Robert's Ferry and turned onto Crabtree Road. Some in the group spotted some Lawrence's Goldfinches on the fence lines. Crossing Dry Creek on the old iron bridge, we spotted a Barn Owl in a shallow opening in the opposite cliff face of Dry Creek. We continued to Rock River Road, seeing our only sparrow of the day, a Savannah. At the pond near the upper end of Rock River Road we saw Cinnamon Teals and Wood Ducks, both an unexpected treat. Overall, it was a very good day for birding.

The total for the day was 63 species and is listed on our web site, [centralsierraaudubon.org](http://centralsierraaudubon.org), on the Bird Sightings page. — **John Turner**

## Roadrunner Sighting On Old Wards Ferry Road

On Monday, May 9, around 2:30pm, Paolo Maffei and Ron Pickup, on their way to the Groveland area to review a property for the Tuolumne County Land Trust, were surprised to see a roadrunner running down Wards Ferry in



—Photo by Ron Pickup

### Roadrunner on rock

front of them, about one mile before the Deer Flat Road intersection. A quick look through Paolo's binoculars made a positive identification of the bird's distinctive features, but when the men stopped to take a picture, the bird quickly ran off the road into a distant field, allowing for only a very blurry blowup from a picture shot with a 105mm lens.

## June Board Meeting Wednesday, June 6, 6 PM Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.



Today, noon, a young macho friendly waiter and three diners, business types—two males, one female—are in a quandary about the name of the duck paddling Otter Creek, the duck being brown, but too large to be a female mallard. They really want to know, and I'm the human-watcher behind the nook of my table, camouflaged by my stillness and nonchalant plumage. They really want to know.

This sighting I record in the back of my *Field Guide to People*. From *Woody's Restaurant, Middlebury* by Greg Delanty, in *Bright Wings, an Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds*

# SIERRA SQUAWKER

Central Sierra Audubon Society

(A Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

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### Program

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### General Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (except 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)*

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