



Program: September 19

Mono Lake on the Rise, Birds on the Wing!

Join Barshe Miller for an in-depth look at Mono Basin's avian world and the challenges of stream restoration and lake stabilization. Enjoy striking bird photography, up-to-date natural history and the latest policy challenges that confront one of the remaining intact saline ecosystems on earth. This presentation will include a showing of the new short film, *The Mono Lake Story*. This high-definition film takes a fresh perspective on the recent human and natural history of Mono Lake through stunning digital footage and interviews.

Barshe Miller is the Mono Lake Committee's Education Director. He has worked for the Mono Lake Committee since 1996 and has lived in the Mono Basin since 1993. Barshe spent his earlier life in Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles before settling in Lee Vining (population 400). He has been a co-organizer of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua and manages a variety of education programs as well as the Mono Basin Field Station.

Don't miss it--mark your calendars! Invite your friends or neighbors even though they may not be "birders". Consider them "potential birders!"

September Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 5, 2PM
Jamestown Community Hall on Main St.

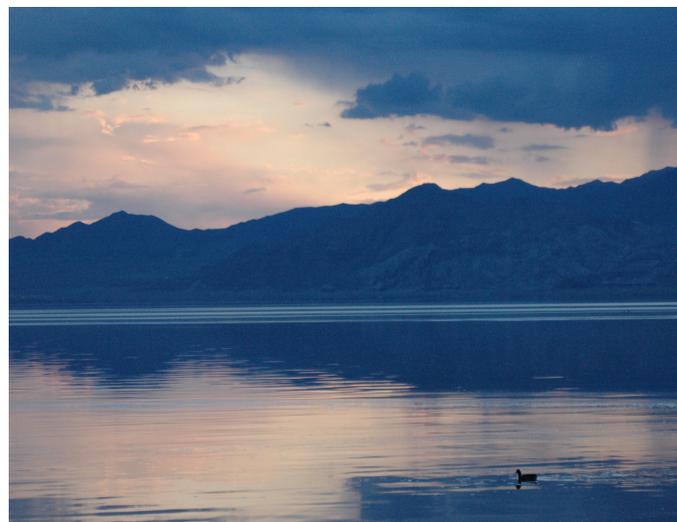
Field Trip: September 5

Groveland Community Service District Property

In light of the fact that our new field trip chairman has been out of state much of the summer and it has been difficult to finalize details on a unique monthly field trip in time for this issue of our newsletter, you are encouraged to participate in this month's monthly field trip to the popular GCSO property in Groveland, led by our own member, Jeanne Ridgley.

The property, located at 18966 Ferretti Road in Groveland, encompasses an area of more than 200 acres of oak, pine and willow habitat with three storage ponds. There have been 131 species of birds identified on the property since 2007 (including nesting wood ducks).

Jeanne will meet the group in the GCSO parking lot at 8:00 AM. Bring binoculars and/or a scope and a birding guide if you have one. The walk will last about two hours. Children are welcome. Rain will cancel the trip. If you have any questions, please call Jeanne at 209-962-7598. **Please note: these walks are held on the first Wednesday of each month!**



Salton Sea: Irv Logan

From the President

The late Al Bergeron was struggling up the rocky slope and I was worried that maybe it was too hard for him. Our goal was to get into the Grotto, a popular climbing area at Tale Mountain near Melones Reservoir. I had told Al of the Canyon Wrens that can be found there and he really wanted to get a good recording of their melodious song. His efforts were rewarded when we sat entranced, watching a male wren singing only a few yards away. Al got his recording, and the sparkle in his eyes was priceless!

When my wife, Pamela, and I moved into our neighborhood some twenty years ago, Al Bergeron became our birding friend and mentor, taking us under his wing and sharing his vast knowledge, and the joy of birds and birding. He was president of CSAS and so willing to take the time to help others learn about his beloved birds. As incoming president, it is an honor and a privilege to be able to dedicate this year's efforts to Al's memory and to follow his example of mentoring young people of all ages in the pleasures of our natural world. I encourage all of you to do the same.

David Harden, President

A Report on Education A Two-County Effort

Education chair Pamela Blair and other volunteers visit third to sixth-grade classrooms in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to share information about a variety of topics: birds, bees, butterflies, bats, spiders, water, animal migration, forests and sharing the earth. Each presentation, 45 minutes in length, involves discussion, questions, photos and some live (spiders) or taxidermy animals (birds and bats). We also explore together the areas near the campuses in search of critters. Each presentation relates to the school's science curriculum and aims to foster awareness of the natural world that will encourage stewardship of our precious resources. All of our educational materials come from our diminishing funding from our endowment. We hope to expand our stock of binoculars from the 7 pairs we currently own. So, if you are planning on upgrading yours, please consider donating your old ones to our educational program. Thank you!

Pamela Blair, Education Chair

Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

Our next clean up on Highway 49/120 will be held on Friday, September 21. Meet at Perko's at 7:30am to carpool or be at the Don Pedro Vista parking area (near the bridge) at 8:00am. If the weather is questionable, call Tom Harrington before 7:00am at 209-694-8564.

Speaking of Conservation...

We are fortunate to have the sharp eyes of Tom Parrington watching out for the interests of CSAS and our communities. As our Vice-president and Conservation Chair he is attempting to "wade" through some of the committees within our two counties that deal with watersheds and the impact various proposals might have upon both our human population and that of our feathered, scaly and furry friends as well as our natural resources. Thanks for your hard work, Tom.

RESTORE Act

Reprinted from Audubon Magazine

On July 6th, President Obama signed into law a bill that included the critically important RESTORE Act, which directs 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties that are owed by BP to the Gulf. Without this key piece of legislation, fines owed by BP would have gone into the larger US treasury bypassing the communities that need it most. Penalties paid by BP could range between \$5 and \$21 billion, making the RESTORE Act the largest conservation funding victory in us history. This was a truly heroic effort by all of Audubon. Staff, chapters, activists and state offices, as well as our many conservation partners, have worked doggedly for two years to deliver this success story.

In the words of Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold, "The RESTORE Act is a lifeline for the Gulf Coast. It will create jobs, and it'll restore the places wildlife need to thrive. This is an act of hope and faith in America that has been generations in coming."

What exactly does the RESTORE Act mean for birds, habitat, and people?

- Each of the five Gulf States will have the financial capacity to begin and complete restoration projects that have long been planned, but under-funded.

Thousands of acres of lost habitat for birds and other wildlife in the region will be restored, repaired or replaced.

- Much needed re-engineering of the Mississippi River Basin will get a kick-start—allowing that ecosystem to begin to rebuild itself, and helping to reverse the disappearance of Louisiana coastal wetlands.

– Restoration projects large and small, spanning the entire coast of the Gulf of Mexico from the barrier islands of Texas to the Florida Everglades, will receive essential support.

With a century-long legacy of conservation along the Gulf Coast, Audubon is committed to helping this vital region recover – from the BP oil disaster and also from decades of other environmental assaults.

Over the next months and years, Audubon will work with the Federal-State task force set up by the RESTORE Act to propose and implement restoration projects across the entire Gulf Coast. This is truly a great victory for conservation and we thank every part of the Audubon family for two years of hard work to this great common cause.

money-- it will deliver your copy several days earlier and in color! If you would like to receive your copy by email, please send your request to: jeanneridgley@sbcglobal.net. Of course if you have not “gotten on board” the cyberspace train, we will be happy to send your copy by “snail mail”. If you are a member and are not receiving the newsletter, please let us know. To receive a printed copy please notify Jeanne Ridgley, 19353 Pine Mountain Drive, Groveland, CA.

Editor's Comments

Please share with me any ideas that might make our newsletter more interesting and informative. Maybe someone will come up with an idea that will interest our younger readers to become more involved with our activities.

We need you to report new sightings, even if they are not that unusual in this area. Maybe they have migrated earlier than usual or in greater numbers. Let us know what you see—rare sightings are, of course, still acceptable!

Check out the websites of other chapters of the Audubon Society and glean interesting articles that we might be able to pass along to our members via the newsletter. If you have gotten a lucky photo (or you're just that good) and are willing to share it with us—great! Happy birding!

Irv Logan, Editor

Your Audubon Board

David Harden, President	533-1668
Tom Parrington, 2nd VP/Conservation	928-3835
Tom Harrington, Secretary	694-8564
Rick Baird, Treasurer	532-1106
Ken Smith, Field Trips	949-922-1445
Jeanne Ridgley, Membership	962-7598
Pamela Blair, Education	533-1668
Irv Logan, Newsletter	505-3250
Rick Baird, Past President	532-1106

Your Audubon Committees

Suzanne Kilburn, Bird Box Trail	532-1938
Tom Harrington, Book Sales	694-8564
Anthea Neilson, Hospitality	533-0360
Jan Jorn-Baird, Publicity	532-1106
Joyce Schieferstein, Scholarship	586-1680
John Turner, Website	852-2348
Steven Umland, Sightings,	
Sonora Christmas Bird Count	536-1996
Barry Boulton,	
Calavaras Christmas Bird Count	795-8225

Fall Birdhouse Sale

October 13 is the day for the fall birdhouse sale. Now is the time to build a birdhouse, bat house or bird feeder to donate to the sale. Wood and plans are available. Call Tom Harrington at 209-694-8564 or John Turner at 209-852-2348. We also need volunteers to help with the sale between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm at Rocca Park in Jamestown. Thanks for your participation.

It's Not Just Money!

With more than 425 members in our chapter of the Audubon Society, postage can be a significant factor when trying to balance the budget. If you have an Internet connection and are receiving our newsletter by regular mail, electing to receive the Sierra Squawker via email will not only save CSAS

SIERRA SQUAWKER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2012

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General Meetings

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