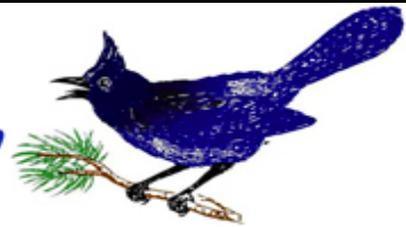


Central Sierra Audubon Society's
Sierra Squawker



Volume XXXIII No. 2

October 2012

Program: October 17

Birds of Nome, Alaska

Our guest speaker for October's general meeting will be Rich Cimino, an expert birder and trip leader from the Bay Area. Rich will show us pictures of the many species seen on his annual tours of Nome, Alaska. He covers a wide variety of habitats, including coastal lagoons, tundra, wetlands and spruce forests. Most of the birds are in their resplendent breeding plumages – rarely, if ever, seen in the "lower 48."

Birding northern California for forty-five years, Rich Cimino is experienced at designing, organizing, and leading birding tours throughout Alaska and the western United States. He has a strong interest in habitat conservation, photography and eco-sustainable tourism. Rich is inspired by birding and appreciates nature for the value it brings to our lives. You can learn more about Rich and his birding field trips at www.yellowbilledtours.com.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, at 7 PM at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora. The public is always welcome and refreshments will be served. For additional information you may call **David Harden at 533-1668** or email David at dharden@sonnet.com.

Coming Programs

November	Jim Mori: Butterflies
December	Christmas Bird Count (No regular program--details later)
January	Dan Webster: To be announced
February	Lee Pagni: Lighthawk
March	John Muir Laws: The Art of Drawing Birds
April	To be announced
May	Nancy Muleady-Mecham: Enduring Giants

Dave Hardin, President

Fall Birdhouse Sale

October 13 is the day for the fall birdhouse sale. There is still time to help. 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.



Photo of the Month

Location, location—and timing! Ken Smith took this shot at Fisherman's Wharf with a Nikon 90 camera and an AF-S Nikkor 55-200 mm. zoom lens. Nice shot! Sorry, Mr. Vole!

Field Trip Schedule

Birding the Neighborhood

(Please keep for Reference)

We wish to introduce birders to various birding hot spots in neighborhood locales. We welcome new and inexperienced people to the world of bird watching, including children. Birding is an avocation you can enjoy anywhere, anytime, day or night. Yes, I said night! We plan to have an "owling" field trip soon. (Google "owling" if you want to see how "strange" this generation has become! Ed.)

Generally these trips will be held on the second weekend of the month. Carpooling is strongly suggested. Local field trips are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. We will continue with our special or out of the area field trips as we have in past years. They may be any day during the month depending on the trip and available dates.

(continued)

Suggested apparel: Muted colors in clothing and hats; sturdy shoes. Dress layered, particularly in winter months. Carry water and snacks. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes and birding field guides if you have them and insect repellent and sunscreen if needed.

Calaveras County trips will be on Saturday during the even numbered months and on Sunday during the odd numbered months.

Calaveras County

Saturday, October 13th, 9:00 - 12:00

Meet near the Sheriff's substation by the Bistro Espresso at the Big Trees Market mall, 2182 Hwy 4, Arnold. We will be viewing the Meadowmont and surrounding areas.

Trip leader: Ken Smith, kenksingz_2@yahoo.com,
(Please note underscore between z & 2)
949-922-1455.

Tuolumne County trips will be on Sunday during the even numbered months and on Saturday during the odd numbered months.

Tuolumne County

Sunday, October 14th, 9:00 - 12:00

Meet at the Perko's parking lot, 824 Mono Way, Sonora.

We will be viewing Hwy 108, Tuolumne & Standard Rd., Standard, Curtiss Creek, and Church Hill areas.

Trip leader: Ken Smith, kenksingz_2@yahoo.com,
(Please note underscore between z & 2)
949-922-1455

Special field trip

Saturday, October 27th, 9:00 - 12:00

We will be viewing Apple Valley Estates with a short hike to the north side of Phoenix Lake.

Trip leader: Dan Webster

Meet at the Apple Valley Estates gate. There is a turnout near the gate on Lyons Bald Mountain Rd. Carpooling is strongly recommended. I suggest car poolers meet at 8:30 at the Library on Greenley Rd .to join up and be at the gate by 9:00.

Please call me for additional information regarding any of these trips.

Ken Smith, Field Trip Chair

GCSD Field Trip (Weekly)

The first Wednesday of every month Jeanne Ridgley will lead a birding walk at the Groveland Community Services property at 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland. The next walk will be on October 3. 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. The walk will last about two-three hours. If you have any questions", call Jeanne at 962-7598.

Jeanne Ridgley, Membership

So You Will Know

The following information will assist you in finding more information regarding sightings, birding "hotspots" etc. You may want to save this information so that you will have it when you need it.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSAS_Birds

This is the "listserve" of the Central Sierra Audubon Society. To join this Yahoo group, continue on to the CSAS page, and fill out that info. On this listserve, you will be informed of the most recent local sightings, be encouraged to post your own sightings, be able to ask questions and exchange information on birds and birding knowledge in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.

<http://www.whzerd.com/tcchecklists.htm>

This site developed by Bill Zachman lists three birding sites in southern Tuolumne County near Groveland: Groveland Community Services District, Cherry Lake Road and Moccasin Creek. It gives directions to the site, a description of the habitat and checklists of seasonal sightings at each site.

<http://digest.sialia.com/>

This site lists many listserves in California. You can see what recent birds have been seen in many areas in California.

<http://ebird.org>

You can submit observations, view and explore data and enter personal data in my eBird. Check it out. Don't forget to also check our own site for local "hotspots"—there are birds of all types to be found if you know where to look for them!

Here are some websites to visit:

<http://centralsierraudubon.org>

<http://kernaudubonsociety.org>

<http://fresnoaudubon.org>

Jeanne Ridgley, Membership



Stupid Bird Humor (a classic from the archives)

Sightings

June to Early September 2012

It was a busy summer for sightings in Tuolumne County. The two miles along Cherry Lake Road continue to bring cool sparrows into our county database. **SAGE, BLACK-CHINNED** and **BLACK-THROATED SPARROWS** continued to be seen during June and July by Jeanne Ridgley and others. **Lawrence's Goldfinch** were spied at the same location. Bill Zachman saw a **Willow Flycatcher** near the Moccasin Hatchery on June 5 and four **Tri-colored Blackbirds** at the stables at Pine Mountain Lake on June 25. Judy Sierra saw a **Gray Flycatcher** and a **Willow Flycatcher** on Long Valley Creek during late July. Helen Kochenderfer saw a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Sand Flat Campground in late July. A second year **Summer Tanager** was seen by on June 6 by Ronald Thorn just west of Jamestown. Steven Umland heard the explosive song of a **Pacific Wren** as he was speeding by it on his bicycle about 3 miles east of the Confidence Rd. Trailhead. Laura Murphy pulled a juvenile **Brown Pelican** from Brentwood Lake on July 8th. It had been there for a few days earlier. This species has been making a large invasion of inland California this summer. Most of the birds have been juveniles. Last but not least, Bill Zachman and Jeanne Ridgley confirmed a report of a **Forster's Tern** on Pine Mountain Lake on Sept 16. Great find!

Steven Umland, Sightings/CBC

October Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2PM

Jamestown Community Hall on Main Street

Sonora Christmas Bird Count December 15, 2012

Please come and join us on Saturday, December 18, for The 26th Sonora CBC. Our count is one of over 2000 worldwide that record all of the birds (well, those that can actually be seen or heard) within a 15 mile diameter circle.

BREAKING NEWS!!! There will be **NO FEE CHARGED THIS YEAR** according to a very recent article published by the CBC people! **SWEET!**

WE NEED ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WE CAN GET. ALL LEVELS OF EXPERTISE ARE NEEDED. Come out and enjoy the day in the great outdoors and in great company. If you cannot (or do not want) to go out for a walk, **VOLUNTEER AS A FEEDER WATCHER.** You can participate from the comfort and safety of your home and help us out a great deal. Please let me know if you want to participate at this level. I will send you the "ground rules". Depending on the area you are in, you spend a good deal of the day walking or driving and counting **EVERY** bird you see or hear. I ask that you spend as much time as you can in the field. After the counting is done you are invited to attend the after count potluck at the Senior Center next to the Library on Greenley Road and swap stories of the day with the rest of the people

who were out and about. If you would like to participate in this worldwide endeavor, call **Steven Umland at 352-6985** or send an email to stevenum71@gmail.com to sign up. Thank you!

NEXT MONTH: A short history of the CBC will be presented (along with another plea for help)!

Conservationally Speaking

A proposed project by Castle & Cook Calaveras Inc. is one of the largest proposed developments in recent years. It would consist of a 243 acre mixed-use and residential master planned community south of Highway 4 west of Copperopolis and south of the new Copperopolis Town Square in Calaveras County.

The proposed Sawmill Lake Specific Plan would change the County's General Plan for the area, much of which is now designated for agricultural uses or natural resource lands to allow a maximum of 800 dwelling units within 140 acres of residential areas (including 3 acres of an active recreation facility), 3 acres of mixed-use village center, 7 acres of a community park, and 83 acres of open space.

Within the Sawmill Lake project area, a total of 173 acres is oak woodland, with 14,503 oak trees. **Construction of the proposed project would require the clearing and removal of 8,494 oak trees in 104 acres of oak woodland, including 4 Heritage Oak Trees over 24 inches in diameter and 3 Grand Oak Trees over 30 inches in diameter**". Loss of this habitat will have an adverse affect on resident and migratory species that use this area for food and shelter. Of special concern is habitat for the burrowing owl and Bell's vireo.

A major issue is that although the Calaveras County Utility District has stated that it can serve this development, the Regional Water Quality Control Board has limited the water available for the Copperopolis area. Legally available water supplies already have been fully allocated for previously approved developments.

Tom Parrington, Conservation Chair

Your Audubon Board

David Harden, President	533-1668
Dan Ward, 1 st VP/Programs	533-3940
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
Anthea Neilson, Hospitality	533-0360
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
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, Calaveras Christmas Bird Count	795-8225

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2012

Program

Rich Cimino

"Birds of Nome, Alaska" Page 1

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Field Trips

Schedule for October Page 1 and 2

Christmas Bird Count, *Page 3*

Sightings, *Page 3*

Conservation, *Page 3*

General Meetings

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

Board Meetings

1st Wednesday, September 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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Newsletter preference:

- Please email me the PDF copy
- I will read or print it from your Website
- Please send me a printed copy