

Central Sierra Audubon Society's

# Sierra Squawker



Volume XXXIII, Number 3

November, 2012

## Program: November 21 "The Allure of Butterflies"

We are lucky to have Sonora local, Jim Mori, as our guest speaker in November. Mr. Mori is a retired entomologist and butterfly enthusiast who has been fascinated with butterflies all his life. For many years he has led field trips and presented programs sharing his expertise and interest in butterflies. He has also provided the excellent collection on display at Big Trees State Park, where he is often featured as a speaker and trip leader. His love of butterflies has taken him around the world and we are very fortunate to have him come to our general meeting. Come and see what the well-known author and fellow butterfly expert, Robert Michael Pyle, is talking about, when he refers to avid butterfly watchers as "birders gone bad."

When and where: Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m., Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Road, Sonora. The public is more than welcome and refreshments will be served after the program. For more information contact: David Harden at 209 533-1668 or email [David at dharden@sonnet.com](mailto:Dharden@sonnet.com)

## Field Trips: Birding the Neighborhood

We wish to introduce birders to various birding hot spots in neighborhood locales. We welcome new and inexperienced people (including children) to the world of bird watching--an avocation you can enjoy anywhere, anytime, day or night. Yes, I said night--we plan to have an owling field trip soon. Generally these trips will be held on the third weekend of the month. 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. Carpooling is strongly suggested. Local field trips are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. Dates and locations will be posted in the Squawker. Suggested apparel: layered, muted color clothing (preferably not white) and hats, sturdy shoes. Carry water and snacks. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes and birding field guides if you have them.

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



"Home is where you make it!"

Photo: Irv Logan

## Schedule: November Field Trips

### November 7: GCSD

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 November 7. 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 a.m. 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**.

### November 10: Away Trip/Consumnes River Preserve.

Trip Leaders Sal Salerno, 209-985-1232, or [bees2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bees2@sbcglobal.net) & Ken Smith (949) 922-1455 or [kenksingz\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:kenksingz_2@yahoo.com). This area, in the southernmost part of Sacramento county, has a magnificent diversity of beautiful habitats. You can expect to see a wide selection of birds, and with Sal's keen ear at work, you can count on hearing them as well. Meet at the Stanislaus Library parking lot at 1500 "I" Street, at 7:00 a.m. Take Highway 99 north to Exit 277, Highway 104 lone/Jackson/Twin Cities exit, midway between Stockton and Sacramento. Take Twin Cities Road west for about 6 miles and turn left onto Bruceville Road. Continue south and at the end turn right onto Desmond Road. Follow Desmond Road for about a mile over the Railroad tracks and turn left on to Franklin Boulevard. Continue down Franklin Boulevard and park in the lot just past the Visitor Center. An alternate is to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Consumnes River Preserve Visitors Center (opens at 9:00 a.m.), 13501 Franklin Blvd., in Galt. Info: [consumnes.org](http://consumnes.org), (916) 684-2816. We'll be finished by mid-afternoon.

### November 17: Calaveras County/Camp Nine Road

Trip leader: Bea Hollers. Contact: Ken Smith at 949-922-1445. Bea has covered this area on the Calaveras Christmas Count for years and lives in the area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Vallecito Post Office, 3511 Main St., Vallecito (Main Street is an alternate loop through Vallecito and connects from Parrots Ferry Road to Highway 4). There is a good spot for Bald Eagles at the river. It can be cold at the river so dress accordingly.

### November 18: Tuolumne County/New Melones Reservoir

Trip Leader Pamela Blair, (209) 324-7000. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the New Melones Visitor Center on Highway 49. Look for the sign and entrance road as you approach the bridge across the reservoir. The center is east of the highway and is not visible from the highway. The area is an oak/grassland savannah. Look for Lewis's Woodpecker, Western or Clarks Grebes and fall migrating birds.

**Kenneth Smith**

## Nome, Alaska, June 2013!!

### Far, Far "Away" Field Trips!

Rich Cimino, who presented our September program, is leading five birding field trips to Nome, Alaska starting May 28, June 1, 6, 10 and 14, 2013. He will donate \$150.00 for every Central Sierra Audubon Society member that goes on one of the trips. Nome is a frontier town accessible only by boat and airplane. Bordered on the west and south by the Bering Sea, and the north and east by miles of trackless wilderness, Nome is a fascinating birding destination. During June and July the Midnight Sun is at its brightest, the tundra is in full bloom, and the birds and mammals are breeding. The tour will cover the prime birding areas along the seacoast and the beautifully blooming alpine tundra surrounding Nome. Most of the birds are in their resplendent breeding plumages—rarely if ever seen in the “lower 48”. We'll make an extra effort to locate some of the accidental Asian species that regularly occur at Nome.

Cost per person is \$2500.00 which includes a \$150.00 donation to CSAS. This includes lodging, ground transportation, airport transfers, and guide services. Not included are airfare and meals. The tours are limited to four participants. The guide will be Rich Cimino of Yellowbilled Tours. Rich has led birding trips in many areas including Nome, is a Bay Area resident and CSAS member. Rich is also leading trips to New Mexico and Wisconsin in 2013. He will donate \$50.00 for each CSAS members that goes on one of these trips. For more information on all three trips contact Rich Cimino at 925-353-0266, yellowbilledtours@gmail.com or visit the website www.yellowbilledtours.com.

## Birding the Neighborhood Reports

### Calaveras County: Saturday, October 13

Arnold, Meadowmont, Lakemont & White Pines. Two ladies arrived about 8:50. We waited until 9:15 for latecomers before covering the area. We observed 35 Canada Geese, numerous Brewer's Blackbirds, Steller's Jays and a Black Phoebe while waiting at the parking lot. Total species identified on trip: 19. Total birds: 345.

### Tuolumne County: Sunday, October 14

Church Hill, Lambert Estates, & Standard Road. We waited till 9:10 for possible stragglers. Eight people carpooled in 2 vehicles. We spent most of our time in the Church Hill/Lambert Estates area at the end of Lambert Lake Road. Nature gave us quite a show, with Phainopeplas, Acorn Woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds, and Scrub Jays all feeding on wind-borne flying insects being carried up the hill to our location. Total number of species identified: 16. Total birds: 203. **Kenneth Smith**

### Indigeny Apple Reserve/Phoenix Lake October 27

The folk on the Central Sierra Audubon bird walk at Indigeny Apple Reserve and Phoenix Lake saw 43 species! What a great morning! More details to come!  
**Dan Webster**

### Late September-October Sightings

With the beginning of Autumn comes the influx of our “Winter” birds. Late September saw the arrival of winter Finches, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. We are also seeing a large increase in the

number of American Coot. The Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, and Ruddy Duck are also making an appearance on local lakes and ponds. As November progresses, we will start to see some Mergansers and Goldeneyes. John Setake of Arnold reported a Townsend's Solitaire in his yard. It was a new yard bird for him. Jeanne Ridgley, Carol Rosalind, and Bill Zachman had a Common Tern at Pine Mountain Lake. Charlotte Ginn had a flock of Sandhill Cranes on Oct. 13 and a dozen Pine Siskins on Oct. 15. The Eared Grebe at the GCSD ponds seen by Jeanne Ridgley and seven “enthusiastic birders” on Oct. 3 was another great find. That's it for now. Keep those eyes peeled while in the field!

**Steven Umland**

## Birdhouse Sale a Success!

We held our semi-annual birdhouse sale on October 13 and had glorious weather, though the ground was a bit damp from the recent rain. Rocca Park is a great venue, especially since the California Native Plant Society was holding their sale at the same time. Many thanks to all those who helped before, during and after the sale. And special thanks to those who built the bird houses and feeders and bat houses that generate most of the sales, though the book sales helped too. The net profit was \$558 and will be used to finance our scholarship and elementary school classroom programs.

**Rick Baird**

## Upcoming Programs

November	<b>Jim Mori:</b> Butterflies
December	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b> (no regular program)
January	<b>Dan Webster:</b> Birds Matter
February	<b>Lee Pagni:</b> Lighthawk
March	<b>John Muir Laws:</b> The Art of Drawing Birds
April	<b>Harold Bascy:</b> Mountain Lions
May	<b>Nancy Muleady-Mecham:</b> Giant Sequoias



*“Happy Thanksgiving”*

Photo: Irv Logan

## Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up

Our next clean-up on Highway 49/120 will be held on Thursday, November 15. Meet at Perko's at 7:30 a.m. to carpool or be at the Don Pedro Vista parking area (near the bridge) at 8:00 a.m. If weather is questionable, call **Tom Harrington** before 7:00 a.m. at 694-8564. Thanks to all the volunteers!

## **Christmas Bird Count Information**

### Plea For "Feeder Watchers"

Would you like to participate in this year's CBC but cannot get out into the field? Do you maintain feeding stations in your yard or property? Then I have the answer for you. Become one of a cadre of feeder watchers! Your job will be to monitor your feeders throughout the day on Saturday, December 15. Keep a list of the numbers of each species that visit at different times throughout the day. If you are interested contact me, **Steven Umland**, at 209-352-6985 or email stevenum71@gmail.com and I will send the information to you. Thank you!

### Groveland Christmas Bird Count

December 14, 2012

The Groveland CBC will take place on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the CBC season. I am in desperate need of additional observers to cover the circle adequately. I've moved the center of the circle a few miles to the Northeast in order to include more of our local hotspot "patches".

We will cover the Groveland Community Services District (Sewer Ponds) property which has been home to 131 species over the last 5 years. Also in the circle is the trail system at the Groveland District Ranger Station along Highway 120 east of Groveland (64 species in only 6 months), and the Moccasin Creek patch which includes an arm of Lake Don Pedro. (104 species over two years.) If we get enough observers we will also include the Long Gulch property east of the PML Stables, where I stumbled onto a Great Gray Owl in July. The equestrians say it has been seen as recently as October. If we get enough participants we can also cover the Priest Reservoir, at the top of the "Old Grade", an un-birded territory with great and extensive habitats. To see the lists of observed species and the seasons in which they are seen go to:  
<http://www.whzrd.com/tcchecklists.htm>.

A few of us "locals" would be willing to trade participation in your CBC if you are interested in ours and need more observers. I can be contacted by email and by phone at: 209-962-6689 (home), 209-769-0147 (cell). **Bill Zachman**

### Sonora Christmas Bird Count

December 15, 2012

Please come and join us on Saturday, December 15, for The 26<sup>th</sup> 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 (see previous article). 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 Jamestown Community Hall 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!

### Calaveras Christmas Bird Count

The Calaveras CBC will take place on Saturday, December 29. For more details or to sign up please, please contact **Barry Boulton at 209-596-0612** or by email at rbarryboulton@gmail.com.

## **SCAS Executive Board Meeting**

Wednesday, November 7, 6 p.m.  
Jamestown Community Hall

### Editor's Comments:

Last month an effort was made to include a number of Internet sites that provide helpful information to our members. I inadvertently left a very useful (and fun) site out, simply because I was unaware of it. I invite you to check it out as I have-I think you will appreciate it! Dan and Tracy Webster have kept this site up and running for over a year. Here is the Internet address (on Facebook):  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Sierra-Audubon-Society/215490338478857> or just type in Central Sierra Audubon using the search field on Facebook. There are 230 people following this site. Thanks, Dan and Tracy!

To those of you who, like me, don't really consider you've seen a bird until you've managed to get a clear, sharp picture of it, I appeal to you to send some of those pictures to me for inclusion in our newsletter. I will also need permission to print them so I don't get into trouble! If some of you don't come through for me you will soon be getting tired of my pictures--I've got thousands of them! Thanks for your help!

**irvlogan@aol.com**

### Your Audubon Board

<b>David Harden</b> , President	533-1668
<b>Dan Ward</b> , 1st VP/Programs	533-3940
<b>Tom Parrington</b> , 2nd VP/Conservation	928-3835
<b>Tom Harrington</b> , Secretary	694-8564
<b>Rick Baird</b> , Treasurer/Past President	532-1106
<b>Ken Smith</b> , Field Trips	949-922-1445
<b>Jeanne Ridgley</b> , Membership	962-7598
<b>Pamela Blair</b> , Education	533-1668
<b>Jan Jorn-Baird</b> , Publicity	532-1106
<b>Irv Logan</b> , Newsletter	505-3250

### Your Audubon Committees

<b>Suzanne Kilburn</b> , Bird Box Trail	532-1938
<b>Tom Harrington</b> , Book Sales	694-8564
<b>Anthea Neilson</b> , Hospitality	533-0360
<b>Joyce Schieferstein</b> , Scholarship	586-1680
<b>John Turner</b> , Website	852-2348
<b>Steven Umland</b> , Sightings/Sonora CBC	536-1996
<b>Barry Boulton</b> , Calaveras CBC	596-0612

**SIERRA SQUAWKER**  
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## **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**November 2012**

### **November Program**

*Jim Mori "The Allure of Butterflies" Page 1*

### **Field Trips**

*Schedule for November Page 1 and 2*

### **Sightings, Page 2**

### **Coming Programs, Page 2**

### **Christmas Bird Count, Page 3**

#### **General Meetings**

Third Wednesday (except June, July, August)  
7 p.m., Tuolumne Public Library

#### **Board Meetings**

First Wednesday, Sept. through May (except December)  
6 p.m., 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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