



ANNUAL POTLUCK & ELECTION

On behalf of my fellow officers of CSAS, I heartily invite you to join us for our annual meeting where you can socialize with old - and new - friends, enjoy good food and meet this year's Scholarship recipient, Caitlyn Rich (see box). And, of course, there's just a minimum of business to attend to. We will formally vote on new or continuing officers in accordance with the bylaws, and we will also vote on a change to the bylaws as I indicated in the May issue of the Squawker.

The Officer candidates are as follows:

- President: Barry Boulton (incumbent)
- VP Programs: Ralph Retherford (incoming)
- Treasurer: Linda Millsbaugh (incumbent)
- Secretary: Jean Dakota (incoming)
- Director at Large: Gail Witzlsteiner (incoming)

The Past President, Tom Parrington is automatically a voting officer. The remaining officers (5) will be appointed by this new Board.

The basic agenda will be:

- Welcome
- Introduction of our scholarship recipient, Caitlyn Rich
 - Scholarship award and comments by Caitlyn
- Time for dining
- Vote on bylaws change (see details on p.2)
- Vote on officer candidates shown above
- Short video on the Ospreys breeding at New Melones
- End and farewell for one more year

This year our scholarship committee has selected **Caitlyn Rich** who is attending UC Santa Cruz with a major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

A graduate of Summerville High School in Tuolumne County, Caitlyn's goal is to pursue a career in wildlife conservation by using ecological genetics to research ways species diversity and their given traits can adapt to climate change.

She will be awarded \$4000 at this annual potluck. Please come to meet and congratulate her!

Please bring along a potluck dish to share - and your own knives, forks, etc. and plates as they are not available in the kitchen at Striker Court..

WHEN? Saturday, June 23 at **5:00pm**

WHERE? County Ambulance Center,
18440 Striker Ct, Sonora

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to CSAS BYLAWS

Legend:

Deletions in **blue**

Additions in **red**

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

The corporation shall have eleven (11) Directors and shall collectively be known as the Board of Directors. The Board of Director shall consist of five (5) elected officers, plus a Membership Director, a Field Trip Director, a Conservation Director, a Newsletter Director, and Education Director, a Publicity Director, and the Past President. The number of Directors may be changed by amendment of this Bylaw, as provided in these Bylaws.

SECTION 3 - ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

The President, **First** Vice President, **Second Vice President**, Secretary, **and** Treasurer **and a Director at Large** shall be elected by a majority vote of members present or represented by a proxy at the annual meeting of members. The **First**, Vice President shall be the Programs Director. ~~The Second Vice President shall be the Conservation Director.~~ The immediate Past President shall be a member of the Board in a voting position.

SECTION 4 - NON-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

The President will nominate and the Board of Directors will approve the following Directors: Membership Director, **Conservation Director**, Field Trip Director, Newsletter Director, Education Director, and Publicity Director. This shall happen at the first Board of Directors meeting after July 1 when the elected officers take office.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

~~SECTION 5 - SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DUTIES.~~

~~THE SECOND VICE PRESIDENT shall assist the President in carrying out the latter's duties. The SECOND VICE PRESIDENT shall act for the President in his absence or his/her disability and in the absence of the FIRST VICE PRESIDENT. THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT shall act as the Conservation Committee chair for CSAS.~~

SIGHTINGS & OBSERVATIONS

Steller's Jays Nest-building in Calaveras Big Trees SP on May 23

The problem with being a Steller's Jay is that no-one loves you; you're seen as devious, adaptable and too clever by half - and you have an unpleasant, grating voice! But this is photo extract from video is very interesting; it shows a female collecting mud with which to stabilize the nest. She and her mate were working in and beside Big Trees Creek, and on this occasion, she was collecting mud while her partner was collecting sticks from the creek - teamwork in action. Watching the video at slow speed, you can see her swallowing the mud and this extract shows the swollen throat area where she deposits the mud to take back to the nest site. In other words, she's carrying much more than just a bill full of mud. So the question arises - how does she do that?

Well, here's another interesting thing about the Steller's Jay - as Cornell's Birds of America Online says "*surprisingly little is known about the basic breeding biology and demography of this relatively tame, common, and widespread species*". So although it says that "*it is an important disperser of piñon pine seeds; transports them in throat and mouth away from the parent plants and caches them in soil, where some later germinate*", it doesn't mention if it has throat pouches like the Clark's Nutcracker or just carries nuts and mud loose in its throat. More research to be carried out.....

Barry Boulton



SIGHTINGS & OBSERVATIONS (cont)

May 1

I heard a turkey then tiptoed out to the driveway to grab some shots of a group of 3 young toms. Only one kept fanning. Oh, and it did something I'd not seen before - it kept fanning, gobbling, and repeatedly circling around another guy. Odd.



Dave Douglass

May 3

Lesser Nighthawk at Rock River Road pond. This is a known location for the species. I was purposely visiting to look for them, initially hearing their low trilling call around 8 p.m. I did not see the birds until 8:06, when two appeared flying over the north side of the pond. It was too dark and distant for me to get photos. The birds were clearly nighthawks, with the white bar across the primaries, fairly close to the wingtip, visible even at dusk.

Tricolored Blackbirds at Highway 49 RR crossing near Sims Road. Occupied colony in previous years. Birds were foraging in adjacent pastures. The large Himalayan Blackberry thicket on the southeast side of the railroad tracks was occupied. I counted a long stream of birds leaving the thicket by 10's, eventually reaching 480 birds. When this movement stopped, there were still many birds in the thicket, so I estimated that the total was at least 600. This colony may prove to be larger as the season progresses.

John Harris

May 9

I had a visit from an unknown guest at my birdfeeder today, the first time ever. I had a birding friend visiting and he confirmed that it was a Brown-headed Cowbird of the male persuasion.

May 10

The Cowbird was back again at my feeder this morning, along with a Grosbeak. On the ground eating the seeds being knocked there by the Grosbeak and Cowbird are two Band Tailed Pigeons... and a Raven... and of course a couple of Gray Squirrels.

Steve Lauterbach, Big Trees Village.

May 11

A friend showed me a den of Gray Foxes very near his house today and these were the best I got.... so far. I plan on going over again tomorrow armed with a tripod and a better vantage point, hopefully. I counted a total of five kits, but never saw the adults.



Dave Douglass

May 30 - Brief Sightings

- Green Heron--off Forest Road 1N04 (Cottonwood Rd.)
Ron McDow.
- Black-backed Woodpecker--Evergreen Rd, (near Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite) "feeding young in tree cavity nest"
Curtis Bradley.
- Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Lawrence's Goldfinch--Jury Ranch Rd. (off Lime Kiln Rd.)
Kurt Ongman.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Westside Trip Report, May 12

Six bird lovers walked the Westside Rail Trail in Tuolumne when 22 bird species were spotted and heard on this 3+ hour walk along the old railroad trail. Bird sightings included Ash-throated Flycatchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Wrentits, Bushtits and one Nuttall's Woodpecker. There were spectacular views of the canyons and the Tuolumne River below. The Wildflowers, including the Harlequin Lupine and the Mariposa Lily (in both pink and white), were in bloom and visited by numerous butterflies.

Kit deGear and Suzanne Kilburn were our resident bird identification specialists, with Suzanne adding to the experience with her knowledge of wild flowers. This was a fun walk that we will repeat in the future.

Trip Leader: Jean Dakota.

Photo: Greg Robbins



FIELD TRIP REPORTS (cont)

Confidence Trail, May 14

This hike was led by Tom Hahn, our speaker on the previous evening, who is on staff at UC Davis and is a great and inspiring birder.

Observations were made while walking the trail on a spectacular morning for species seen and heard - 42 in all - with clear, sunny blue skies, slight wind and temperatures ranging from mid 50's to low 60's.

Kit DeGear

Rim Fire, May 19

Led by Christy Sherr of the John Muir Project, our purposes were to see the regrowth of the Rim Fire burned area, and to observe the bird species now living in the area.



In this particular burned area that is recovering well, we observed 27 species which was pretty impressive. The sad, indeed tragic, thing here is that USFS has decided to salvage log this area, treat with Roundup and plant with Ponderosa Pines to produce an even-age, mono crop plantation. That means that all of the birds here - certainly more species than we observed in our short trip - will be driven out and have to compete in new territories to survive. This will not stop future wildfires out here, it will certainly not stop wildfires in the urban interface area, but it will further damage sensitive habitat and increase carbon releases through burning in biomass facilities. So, who gains? You can guess by following the money as usual - the timber companies and the biomass industry that Governor Brown is foolishly encouraging. Truly it is said that those whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad; this is madness.

Thanks to Barbara McDow's keen eyes we were privileged to see this Dusky Flycatcher and her mate building a nest that looks somewhat precarious to me - but they know what they're doing! It's not easy to see - just left of center on that branch in the photo.



Barry Boulton

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, June 6 - GCSD

The first Wednesday of the month Bird Walk at the Groveland Community Services property at 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland will be led by Jeanne Ridgley on June 6. The property encompasses an area of more than 200 acres of oak, pine and willow habitat with three water storage ponds.

On May 2 we saw 45 species. First of the season sightings here were Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock's Oriole. A Bald Eagle was seen flying high overhead.

Access for birders here is limited. Birders must be accompanied by an authorized birder.

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.

Jeanne Ridgley (209) 962-7598

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Sunday, June 24 – Indigeny Reserve

Please join me as we bird through the beautiful grounds at Indigeny. Besides the apple orchards, there are large oaks, some pines, stream-side thickets and a marshy area with reeds that provide some great habitats for birds. As always, bring your binoculars and/or scopes, wear muted colors and you may wish to include a hat, sunscreen and water.

Our last visit on May 27 was a beautiful morning with 8 participants. Bullock's Orioles greeted us once again in the parking lot. Black-headed Grosbeaks were heard throughout the morning as well as Ash-throated Flycatchers. The Red-tailed Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawks made their usual appearances. We were also treated to an Osprey. Another highlight was a Hairy Woodpecker, my first sighting at Indigeny and a little unusual given the elevation. We were surprised that there were no Warblers or Vireos and few Flycatchers. Still a lovely walk! A total of 38 species were seen.

On this visit, I expect some cool warblers, vireos and flycatchers to turn up. The walk will last 2-3 hrs. Children are welcome! Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 AM. Rain will cancel the trip. Follow the signs from the intersection of Greenley and Lyons/Bald Mountain Roads in Sonora. After a few miles on Lyons/Bald Mountain Road, turn right onto Apple Hill Drive where there is a large sign that says "Apple Valley Ranches." A quick left turn onto Summers Lane leads you to Indigeny.

Please note that there will be no Indigeny walks in July or in August.

Kit DeGear (925) 822-5215 or kdegear@gmail.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to Kit DeGear, we had a thoroughly enjoyable morning with the great teachers and children from Curtis Creek Elementary School. This is such an enjoyable and important activity that I want to extend an invitation to all of you to consider participating in future school outings. I discovered that you don't have to have great knowledge but just to be present. In fact, the youngsters are so active that you can't hold their attention for many seconds before they're on their way. But this is the only way that we can get close to young people - and they are the ones who will be responsible for protecting and conserving the birds we love.

On top of our participation with the students, the teachers are so thankful that we've given them an opportunity to widen the horizons of their students. It allows them to teach these important scientific courses, albeit at a relatively elementary level, in an environment where the students have some practical experience and appreciation. I just can't express how important this is to a better education for the next generation that will be critical for the conservation of birds and their habitats in an even tougher environmental climate than we've experienced. Birds depend on them - and us....

If you think you'd like to simply be present at one of these school trips, please tell Kit or myself and we'll let you know when an opportunity arises.

Barry Boulton

Now, Kit's report:

Curtis Creek Elementary 3rd Graders at Indigeny

On Tuesday, May 29th, Indigeny was featured yet again. This time it was for a field trip for about 45 students from two 3rd. grade classes from Curtis Creek Elementary. They had enjoyed a presentation from Megan Layhee through our school program partnership with CSERC. They got quite jazzed about birds and wanted to learn more - isn't that what it is all about? I was contacted and I suggested Indigeny as a good location for a field trip outing. There were two teachers, many parent helpers and 5 of us from Audubon. Everyone had a great time and yes we did get to see some birds! It was rewarding to see the enthusiasm and knowledge the children displayed. A personal thank you to Pamela Blair, Ron & Barbara McDow and Barry Boulton for volunteering their time!

Kit DeGear

Birding News from Arnold

by John Sutake

This migrant bird watcher returned to Arnold in mid-May just in time to see the end of the spring migration of Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers. The summer residents now include Calaveras (Nashville), MacGillivray's and Hermit Warblers plus the Western Tanager and a group of very shy Band-tailed Pigeons. Only the second time in 10 years was a sighting of the Long-eared Chipmunk (*Tamias quadrimaculatus*) foraging under the bird feeder. I finally got to see the male Pileated Woodpecker that calls loudly near my house from time to time, and he may be a resident of Big Trees State Park just three miles up highway 4.

Meanwhile, at White Pines Lake I was privileged to see twenty Red-winged Blackbirds mobbing a Great Blue Heron. At first I was rather surprised but, on considering the heron's omnivorous diet, the blackbirds' protective reaction was understandable to defend the young in their nests.

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Calaveras Big Trees SP Field Trip Saturday, June 23

Stanislaus & San Joaquin Audubon chapter members will visit Big Trees SP for a joint trip along with CSAS members who care to join. They are very good birders and so this will be an excellent learning trip as well as enjoyable in its own right - I'm looking forward to it very much!

Meet at the Visitors' Center parking area at 8:30am. Bring water and lunch. Trip leader will be Sal Salerno who has visited with CSAS on previous occasions.

Barry Boulton

REMINDER - VOTE ON JUNE 5! PARTICULARLY PROP. 68

Audubon California has long fought to protect California's birds and natural landscapes, and that is why we emphatically support Proposition 68 - the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act that will be on the June 5 ballot.

The passage of Prop. 68 will further Audubon California's conservation goals around water, the Salton Sea, coastal habitat protection, working lands, and the conservation of priority bird species.

Audubon California was part of a broad coalition working closely with lawmakers to put this \$4 billion bond on the June 5 primary ballot in California.

Please vote for Prop.68 on June 5

CONSERVATION CORNER

Audubon California's Annual Advocacy Day - June 20

Here's Audubon California's invitation to participate:

Birds of a feather will flock together on Wednesday, June 20, for Audubon Advocacy Day where we will speak up for the birds. We hope you will join us!

Our focus this year will be on state wildlife protection, funding for parks and open space, water, and ensuring that California remains at the forefront in fighting and adapting to climate change.

The day will include advocacy training, briefings about the issues relevant to birds, meetings with your legislators, and the opportunity to get involved in shaping public policy. Attendees will also have a chance to speak with their representatives about their own priorities from their districts. California's birds need you.

I shall participate as I did last year and I can tell you that you will thoroughly enjoy the experience. Audubon California staff organize and lead this day superbly, guiding and supporting you to feel that you've made a difference.

Before going to the legislative offices, we will meet at State Building & Construction Trades Council, located at 1231 I St. Suite 302, Sacramento, California (Corner of 13th and I) for training and breakfast (provided).

The day's agenda is:

8:00 am – 8:15 am	Welcome and Brief Remarks Sarah Rose, Executive Director of Audubon CA
8:15 am – 9:15 am	Effectively Communicating with Legislators Mike Lynes & Juan Altamirano, Audubon California
9:15 am – 9:30 am	Question/Answers
9:45 am – 10:00 am	Depart to Capitol
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Begin Advocacy Day Visits
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch provided
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Continue Advocacy Day Visits
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Early bird happy hour

You don't have to do the full day shown here so if you want to participate and depart Sacramento at, say, 2pm, that will work. The important thing is that your participation in part of the day makes such a significant difference.

You can sign up directly with Audubon California at: <http://ca.audubon.org/get-involved/2018-audubon-california-advocacy-day> However, if you're driving from either Tuolumne of Calaveras county, we can discuss car pooling (preferable) if you communicate with me at rbarryboulton@gmail.com or (209)596-0612. I shall depart Murphys at 6am and can take 3 passengers. Yes, 6am seems like a brutal start time, but for me the enjoyment and satisfaction make it worthwhile.

Central Sierra Audubon Society - CSAS

(Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

P.O. Box 3047, Sonora, CA 95370

General Meetings: Third Wednesday at 7pm (except July, August, and December), in the Tuolumne Public Library on Greenley Road, Sonora.

Board Meetings: Third Wednesday at 3pm (Sept. - May) at the Starbucks conference room at Tuolumne Road just off Mono Way/108.

Membership of National Audubon & CSAS

If you are not already a member, we would be honored to have you join us. You can join as a full member of National Audubon Society which includes dues for CSAS membership or, alternately, you may join as a local member of CSAS in which case you will receive the monthly Squawker newsletter and be privy to all other CSAS activities.

An application form is on the front page of the CSAS website at www.centralsierraaudubon.org/join-us/

Your CSAS Officers

Barry Boulton, President	(209)596-0612
Tom Parrington, Past President	(209)928-3835
Walt Kruse, VP Conservation	(707)548-1829
Kit DeGear, VP Programs	(925)822-5215
Jeanne Ridgley, Secretary	(209)962-7598
Linda Millsbaugh, Treasurer	(209)586-9557
XXX, Field Trips	
Pattie Henderson, Membership	(209)586-2169
Jan Jorn-Baird, Publicity	(209)532-1106
Barry Boulton, Newsletter Editor	(209)596-0612

Your CSAS Committees

Ron & Barbara McDow, Bird Box Trail	(650)391-5277
Tom Harrington, Book Sales	(209)694-8564
Pamela Blair, Scholarship	(209)533-1668
John Turner, Website	(209)852-2348
Steven Umland, Sightings/eBird	(209)352-6985