Central Sierra Audubon Society

Sierra Squawker

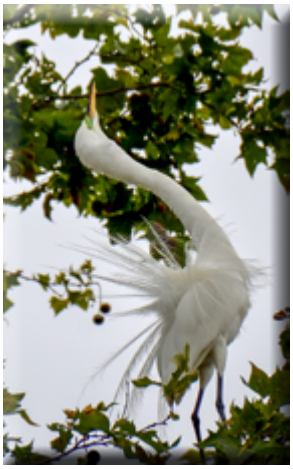
www.centralsierraaudubon.org October - 2017

BIRD BEHAVIORS - WHAT'S GOING ON???

A Video Presentation by Barry Boulton

Although the activities of all birds are necessarily oriented around survival and reproduction, yet their lifestyles and behaviors vary dramatically among the species so, using video techniques, we will take a look at some representative species and discuss their varying characteristics.

Viewing sexual selection, mate-choice and other behaviors lead us to ask the question "how and what do birds think?" That has long been a contentious issue and, indeed, a hundred years ago and more they were thought to be little more than computers with feathers, and even Descartes claimed that animals had no feelings and are not able to reason - how wrong was he! We only have to look at them in action to know that something akin to thought as we know it is going on as they contemplate what decision to make in particular circumstances. You'll see adults displaying and competing for mates, parents nurturing their young, juveniles in competition (in some cases with deadly intent), and juveniles taking that scary step of leaving the nest.



Male Great Egret in courting display

Barry Boulton is President of the Central Sierra Audubon Society, and is an avid videographer and interpreter of bird behaviors. He is fascinated by the evolutionary and adaptive dynamics that can be seen in birds (as well as in mammals and humans of course).

Female Osprey (right) caring for 3rd & last juvenile before it makes its maiden flight from the nest

There will be two venues for this presentation:

SONORA - OCT. 18

Join us at 7 PM, October 18th, in the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora to enjoy this presentation.

SAN ANDREAS - OCT. 26

Join us at 6 PM, October 26, in the Calaveras County Library at 1299 Gold Hunter Rd, San Andreas to enjoy this presentation.

SONORA UPCOMING 2017 - 18 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

November 15	Laura Murphy Mother Lode Wildlife Care
December CBCs	Groveland CBC...Dec. 14 Sonora CBC.....Dec. 16 Calaveras CBC....Dec. 30
January 17	Rich Cimino Birds of Belize
February 21	TBD

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

MORRO BAY, OCT. 27 - 29, 2017

Ken Smith, our Field Trip Chair, has worked with local guides to organize an excellent field trip to Morro Bay for which he has a few spaces left. This is a highly recommended one-time only opportunity to visit ecosystems, features and observe birds that we just don't see in the Sierra Nevada. Note that Friday Oct. 27 is a travel day only.

Saturday October 28th at 10am

El Morro Elfin Forest Natural Area in Los Osos

The Elfin Forest supports more than 200 species of plants, as well as 110 kinds of birds, 22 species of mammals and 13 species of reptiles and amphibians. Chumash middens occur throughout the park.This site has a handicap access boardwalk loop trail featuring the pigmy oaks and an excellent elevated view of the the marsh and Morro Bay. We will meeting with Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) docents at the end of 15th St.

Saturday, October 28th at 3pm

Take a"Behind the Scenes" view of the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History. This is an opportunity to view how the museum maintains and rotates the displays for the public view.

Sunday, October 29th at 10am

Geology/birding on Morro Rock with Bob & Robbi Revel. The Revels will explain the geology and history of Morro Rock. We may see the two pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** that have been nesting at Morro Rock over the last 15 years,

All locations offer the opportunity to view gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl and warblers in the immediate area along with Sea Otters, Sea Lions & Harbor Seals that populate the harbor.

Other suggestions on your own include visiting Morro Bay State Park & Marina, Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve, Estero Bluffs State Park & Montana de Oro State Park,

Contact: Ken Smith (949)922-1455 or kenksingz_2@yahoo.com

Peregrine Falcon
Patty Kamysz

Townsend's Warbler
Lucia Gonzalez

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher - BB

Heerman's Gull - BB

Brandt's Cormorants - BB

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Oct. 4 - GCSD

The first Wednesday of the month Bird Walk at the Groveland Community Services property at 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland, will be led by Carol Rosalind on October 4. The property encompasses an area of more than 200 acres of oak, pine and willow habitat with three water storage ponds.

On the September 6 Bird Walk, we saw 34 species. Highlights includes Green-winged Teal, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Meet the group in the GCSD parking lot at 7:30 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.

Carol Rosalind, rosalind.car@protonmail.com

Oct. 22 - 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.

On our Sept. 24 walk, a total of 34 species were seen. Highlights of the day included Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and although not rare (but I think less common) was a sighting of a Northern Mockingbird and 4 Lewis's Woodpeckers!

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.)

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

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BIRD CONGREGATIONS

A Murder of Crows
A Piteousness of Doves
A Charm of Finches
A Siege of Herons
An Exaltation of Larks
A Tidings of Magpies
A Parliament of Owls
A Muster of Peacocks
An Unkindness of Ravens
A Murmuration of Starlings

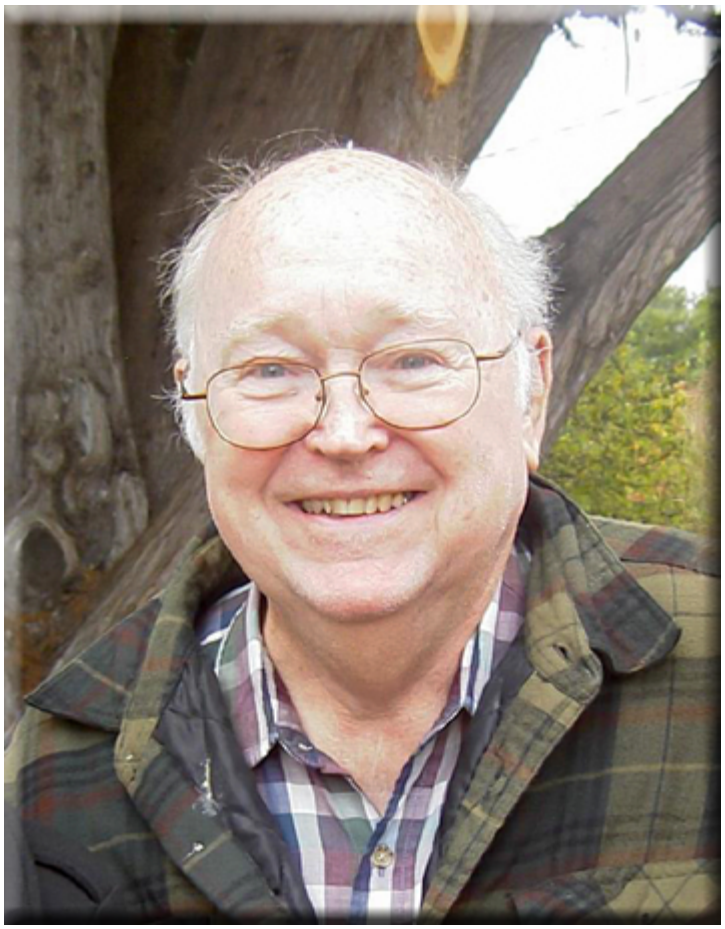
RICK BAIRD 1937 - 2017

Saying "good-bye" to a friend and colleague is always tough to do, and so it is with much sadness that we salute our Past-President, Rick Baird who passed away on September 13.

When Rick moved to Sonora in 2004, he joined CSAS and held various Board positions, including that of President. He brought with him a lot of experience in the field of birding, having served on the Boards of Sequoia Audubon in San Mateo County and Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County. He was gentle and quietly spoken, but at the same time with great determination to accomplish things that he thought important to CSAS and birds. Rick was a man of many interests and it was always a pleasure to spend time talking with him, exchanging ideas and looking to the future.

We wish to express our sympathy and condolences to his wife Jan Jorn-Baird, also an active member CSAS. Many of us remember the day he married Jan and it looked like the happiest day of his life.

There will be a celebration of Rick's life on Sunday, October 22nd at the Mountain Springs Golf Club in Sonora from 3pm – 5pm.



DANCING WITH A PILEATED WOODPECKER
by
Carol Rosalind

Sept. 23

I had on loud music and house closed up, chilly up here! But heard the drumming, in my mind I thought a jack-hammer, but then realized that was ridiculous and knew it was a Pileated. He called each time he flew between trees. What was the most stunning was his size; on a branch with him was a Band-tailed Pigeon; the Pileated was far larger. Not wanting to lose more trees, I hope he moves on; nearby I found 5 pines ring-barked.

I just came in from checking the garden, and the Pileated flew one foot from me; we were face to face. Why? Because I was under the grape vines that tangle high into the oak tree which hangs over my roof. He flew overhead and went to work grabbing grapes. I think the temptation of the grapes, took over his better judgment. I am trying to get a picture, but sadly I had moments before taken my camera into the house... grrrr. He flew off, but most likely will be back. I will be stalking him.

Day 3 Update:

Attraction is the grapes. When he comes bulleting in, calling out loudly, all the birds - and the deer for that matter - are put at attention. Stealth is not in his vocabulary! Not only does he feast on the grapes, but the grape leaves as well. He is not a bit tolerant of my presence, not happy with my stalking at all, so I have to hide fairly far away. Hard to resist, but I go inside and let him at it.

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BIRD BOX SALE COMING UP

Saturday, October 21st we will join the Sierra Foothills Chapter of the California Native Plant Society at our favorite location in Rocca Park, Jamestown. Here we will be offering bird boxes for sale along with books and other birding items.

Now is the time to buy and install bird boxes so that by the early spring when birds are selecting nesting places, the boxes are already aged and fitting into their environments. New, shiny boxes are scary for the birds so the winter aging is a critical step in having your box inhabited.

If you are able to join us in attending the booth and thus enjoying an enjoyable social day, please call our organizer:

Tom Harrington at (209)694-8564

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 Millspaugh, Treasurer	(209)586-9557
Ken Smith, Field Trips	(949)922-1455
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