

THE HOOT OWL



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San Joaquin Audubon Society
San Joaquin Audubon Society

PROGRAMS

There will be no in-person general membership meetings until Covid-19 pandemic conditions allow. In the interim, we will do our best to offer programs via Zoom or other media.

TUESDAY, September 15, 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Jim Rowoth

"Using eBird"

Tonight, Jim will be sharing more of his expertise with the citizen science program eBird. Upgrades and improvements continue to be rolled out, so there is always something new to learn with the program. So, grab your cell phones and fire up your laptops or desktops as we walk through some of the basics and recent updates. Please jot down any questions you may have along the way. There will be time for questions at the end. The time of the event and the link will be listed on our website (<http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org/trips.htm>) closer to the date.

Jim Rowoth grew up in small town north central Missouri. He took note of the birds around him even as a child, but he did not take up bird watching until the mid-1980s, when he moved to Stockton. Before moving to California in 1982, got his BA in Spanish & Political Science at SEMO in Cape Girardeau (yes THAT Cape Girardeau), spent a year in Spain, 4 years in Washington DC, and 2 years in Illinois. He also has an MA in Spanish and an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language. He retired from the Stockton Social Security Office at the end of 2014 after 25 years of federal service.

He has been an active member of SJAS since the late 1980s, having served on the Board of Directors in a variety of positions, including president. He has been Stockton CBC compiler since the mid-1990s, has led field trips for both SJAS and the Lodi Crane festival & CVBS, taught beginning birding at Delta College, volunteered with SJOE's outdoor education program at Durham Ferry, and traveled & birded worldwide—until this pandemic. Bringing in new birders of all ages, and helping them achieve success is very important to him.

FIELD TRIPS

(Cancelled until further notice)

All: Due to the ongoing pandemic, all upcoming San Joaquin Audubon Society field trips will remain cancelled. We hope to resume as soon as Covid-19 pandemic conditions allow. Meanwhile, we hope you are all able to bird in the county and beyond, keeping your safety, and the safety of others in mind. Please share your trip information or pictures on one of our many social media outlets.

Nature Journaling



During this pandemic I have been using much of the time that I would have spent on birding trips doing nature journaling of birds and native plants. I started nature journaling after watching John Muir Laws three part series that was presented by Audubon.

Link: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/how-to-draw-garden-birds-video/>

Nature Journaling has definitely made me a better birder. As I took the class, it helped me remember the feather patterns on birds, and to pay attention to which feathers have certain field marks. As I look at the bird I am drawing, it makes me pay close attention to the shape of the bird, which help me recognize that species in the field later. As I draw, I pay attention to field marks, and note differences between species. As I take notes, it helps me remember the different calls, behaviors and habitats of different species. Here is a link to John Muir Laws' article on how Nature Journaling makes you a better birder: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/summer-2020/how-nature-journaling-can-make-you-better-birder>

Even if you don't consider yourself an artist, making a nature journal of your bird observations will help you to be a better birder.

By Amy Weiser
Stockton, CA

How the Pandemic Has Affected My Life as a Birder

By Jim Rowoth
Stockton, CA



Mourning Dove and House Finch meet

Since March, my routine has been much restricted. I have not strayed nearly as far afield as before, rarely leaving the county in search of birds. Who knows, I might eventually pick up a new bird for my San Joaquin Co list! I have severely cut back on my county/state/international birding activities. I haven't seen family in SoCal at all this year.

I find I am paying a lot more attention to my yard birds as well. I'm doing a better job at maintaining my simple bird bath, and I have hung 4 hummingbird feeders—1 in front and 3 in back. I'm not getting great number or variety, but one Anna's in particular seems particularly grateful. My neighborhood House Finches love the birdbath; I also get goldfinches, doves, jays, and mockingbirds as well as an occasional migrant. I've propped up a multi-tiered perch for them to use to maintain "social distance" against roaming cats. (I confess, I have one outdoor, as well as two indoor cats.)

I also finally took the plunge and bought a camera. It is not as onerous a burden as I had expected, and I find it quite nice to be able to snap a few pictures and to go back later and review them at leisure. They are all pretty mediocre, but this had helped be focus on details that couldn't otherwise. My photos have also improved my eBird reports and have gotten me to post more to my iNaturalist account.

No one can say how long how long our present "inconvenience" will last. As Amy Weiser reminded me a few days ago, the infamous 1918 flu pandemic lasted 3 years, so we could well have many more months of this ahead of us. As a lover of lemonade, I propose that we all work on our lemonade recipes, since life is sure to give us bushels of lemons in the coming months!

PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

TUESDAY, October 13

VIRTUAL JOINT MEETING WITH DELTA-SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham

"Water Harvest"

Join Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham for this insightful presentation on water, its properties, occurrence, use, and power. She will discuss nature, history, location and use....so much to learn about our precious resource here in California. The time of the event and the link will be emailed and posted on our website (<https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra>) closer to the date.

More about Dr. Muleady-Mecham in her own words – "I am a retired National Park Ranger and have served for over 30 years as a National Registry Certified Paramedic, a Flight Nurse, Board certified (in Emergency Medicine), and as a Registered Nurse in Level One Trauma Center Emergency Rooms. I am a MICN (Mobile Intensive Care Nurse) and an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Instructor. I served as a Search and Rescue Specialist (SAR) using High Angle Rescue, Swift Water, and Short Haul skills. I served as a Structural Firefighter, Engineer, and Fire Captain on Structural Fire Brigades. I also worked as a Wildland Firefighter and on an initial attack PTO Wildland Fire crew, and a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. I am a State of California Emergency Response Team Member. I am also an Adjunct Professor at Northern Arizona University with a Ph.D. in Biology. I teach subjects in biology, anatomy and physiology and medicine, pathology, astronomy, and forestry and conduct research on Giant Sequoia ecology. My passion is teaching and when I was approached by Columbia College, welcomed the opportunity to teach locally.

Pandemic Birding

By Liz West
Galt, CA

I spent the first couple of months very close to home seeing a few migrants in town. I was fortunate to find a Cooper's Hawk nest in a live oak tree just over the walking path. As far as I know most walkers were oblivious to the nest. I didn't think it would be successful since the female was in immature plumage. The pair did successfully fledge three young thanks to all the neighborhood bird feeders. Along the same length of path, a pair of Western Kingbirds nested in a tree bordering the path. Their first nest failed possibly because it was too obvious, they moved most of the old nest to the new location. Three young fledged, I did not see them subsequently.

As nesting season waned, I made a late trip to Sierra Valley and multiple trips up to the Sierra and to top it off a trip up to Goose Lake area in Modoc County to see a lifer Common Crane.

Everywhere I was impressed by the numbers of people outdoors. In fact, the first trip up to Sierra Valley I wasn't able to find anyplace to camp, usually only half full!



The male Cooper's Hawk

BIRD SIGHTINGS

June 15, 2020 - August 14, 2020
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On June 27th, David Yee and Rosemarie Richardson saw an **Allen's Hummingbird** at the Heritage Oak Winery feeders.

Suga Moriwaki photographed four **Grasshopper Sparrows** on June 30th at Waverly Rd., a known breeding location for them in San Joaquin County.

Jim Gain, on a trip to Ripon Sewage Ponds heard then saw two **Short-billed Dowitchers** land, July 13th. David Yee also saw one on Woodbridge Rd. August 1st.

On July 23rd, David Yee found a probable **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at his feeder east of Stockton. The hummingbird departed July 27th.

David Yee found a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Lodi Sewage Ponds on July 17th. On July 26th there were three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** seen by Jim Rowoth and Kasey Foley. There was at least one present through July 28th.

David Yee observed a **Solitary Sandpiper** at a flooded field on Woodbridge Rd. near Black Hole Hunt Club on August 1st. It was present through August 2nd.

Ralph Baker found a **Willet** on Woodbridge Rd. in the flooded field by Black Hole Hunt Club on August 2nd. It continued through August 7th.

Jim Rowoth reported two **Bank Swallows** at Black Hole Hunt Club turn off on Woodbridge Rd. August 2nd. At least one was present through August 8th.

David Yee found what may be the first confirmed San Joaquin breeding of **Blue-winged Teal** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds on August 7th. A female duck with eight new ducklings.

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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.io/g/SJBirds>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserve

<https://groups.io/g/calbirds>

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Membership

National Membership

By joining the National Audubon Society you are also a member of the San Joaquin Chapter. This includes subscriptions to the award-winning *Audubon Magazine* and to the chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. Both publications are bimonthly. For *national membership*, send check payable to the **National Audubon Society** to the address below.

• National Audubon Membership Rate: \$20

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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Local-Only Membership

This includes a subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. For *local membership*, send check payable to **San Joaquin Audubon Society** to the address below.

• Chapter Newsletter—electronic copy \$15

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