



# placer color



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Volume 44 Number 10 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** Dec 2006 **Since 1952**

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Member Delta Council, Gold Rush Chapter, Photographic Society of America (PSA)

**Placer Camera Club** meets the third Tuesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:00PM in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, Ca. **Visitors Welcome!**

This months meeting will be Tuesday, **Dec 19, 2006** at 7:00 PM.

This month is our annual **Christmas Party**. Everyone attending brings a few cookies, cakes, or candy to share. Bring your slides, prints or digital media. You can relate the story behind the picture, get feedback or both. This annual event is great fun!

The **Mandarin Festival** was a big success. The club raised over \$500 toward our digital projector. Sales of quilt tickets continue and we will hopefully reach our goal of a digital projector for the club by next competition in Feb 07. Keep up the good work!

I'm working on a **webpage** for the club. What I have so far is very basic and most of the pages are not filled with information. What I'd eventually like to see is information about the club, competition rules, member photos and the like. The picture on the front page is just one I had and doesn't have to be the one that stays there. It's just for demo purposes. It's online now so take a look and let me know what you'd like to see in a webpage providing it's not too complex. If we want to continue with this idea we can eventually have it hosted and get a url that includes the club name .

<http://webpace.ftcnet.net/radioman/>



This month's newsletter will be a special on the **pacific flyway** in the Sacramento area. We live in one of the best bird migrations areas around and hopefully this will give you a bit of information so you can take advantage of that. Birds migrate each year from Alaska to South America. Many of these stop over in the Sacramento valley which is on the pacific flyway. Many thousands of waterfowl are in this area and the best times are December to March. We have many excellent wildlife areas for the birds in the area and

**Egret & Snack by Mike Schumacher**

many are great for viewing or photography. These are wild birds and not as used to seeing humans as the ones in local parks. This means you have to move slowly and use caution as they will try to avoid human contact. Many areas have an auto loop tour. You can use your car as a blind shooting with your camera out the window. Many of the side roads will have areas to park so you can get out and shoot the birds from a distance. Telephotos in the range to 200mm to 400mm and above are best.

## **Sandhill Crane Photography in the Delta**

By Jim White

It's that time again! The Sandhill Cranes are back in the Delta. At least 35,000 Lesser and 7000 Greater Sandhill Cranes winter in central valley of California in the open grain, grass, and flooded agricultural fields. A goodly number of these can be found in the



Isenberg Crane Preserve near Lodi. Not only will you see Cranes but also thousands of White Fronted Geese, Tundra Swans, assorted ducks and herons and many wintering hawks. If you are lucky, maybe even a Bald Eagle! All of the above may be viewed from a dead end road where the traffic is usually very light. Very often (usually in the mornings) the birds are near the road. Members of the Placer Camera Club recently photographed herons and egrets from as close as 30 to 100 feet from the road.

**Sandhill Cranes by Mike Schumacher**

How to find the preserve? A little tricky, but if you follow these instructions it will be easy. Go south from Sacramento on Interstate 5 and watch for Twin Cities road, then the road to Walnut Grove and Staten Island and then you will come to Peltier road. Take the off-ramp to the stop sign and turn left and go under the freeway to Thornton road. Turn right on Thornton road and go to the next stop sign, that should be Woodbridge road. Turn right on Woodbridge, go under the freeway again and you are heading west into the Isenberg Crane Preserve (a.k.a. Woodbridge Ecological Reserve). Be sure and park off the pavement and lookout for an occasional high speed driver, I think in training to be a race car driver.

**Sandhill Crane by Jim White**

When to go? Mornings are best, but I would not pass up a chance to go in the afternoon too. The birds are often loafing in the middle of the afternoon, but will start flying as soon as the sun gets low. Windy days are a plus, if you can hang on to your hat and gear, the birds





love to fly into the wind. Try shooting the swans landing or taking off the water. Try shooting the cranes while they are leaping (dancing) and playing grab a...(butts). Three of our members recently photographed a Peregrine Falcon on nearby Staten Island, so keep a look out for Peregrine and Prairie falcons. Remember to take your bird book and binoculars too. You never know what you will see, on the Isenberg Crane Preserve.

**Peregrine Falcon by Mike Schumacher**

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### **Cosumnes River Preserve Trip**

Text & **Photos** by Howard Godfrey

Recently Pekka Liemola and I went down to the Cosumnes River and the Crane preserve on Woodbridge road.. We were there early in the morning and the cranes were very active especially at Woodbridge. They are still dancing. Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons were in the drainage ditches on Woodbridge Road. There were a few swans and lots of mudhens at Cosumnes.



## Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Text & Photo by Bruce Gregory

The below link will take you to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge Complex Home page. The buttons on the left of the home page will take you to more info. Top button on recreational opportunities is probably the most useful for us. The wildlife viewing portion has more links to things like bird counts.

I have photoed on the auto loops described for the unit near Maxwell and the Colusa unit. If you check the "Complex Map" you will see that there are many units of this refuge. I haven't tried the other units, and don't know about access in the other units. The Colusa and Maxwell unit can be done in the same day.

Another side trip in the area is the rural roads that parallel I 5 north of Hwy 20. One of my trips there I went to Sac. Wlf. Refuge near Maxwell in the early morning, at about 1pm I went west from Maxwell to connect to the rural roads paralleling I 5 came east on Hwy 20 and did Colusa Refuge in the late afternoon. My picture of the oak tree & horse that's on the quilt was taken on Leesville Rd on that trip.



As of 11/20/06 the bird counts for the complex show 96,020 geese and 711,643 ducks in the complex. Surely one of them will pose for a picture.

<http://www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges/index.htm>

Bruce

White Faced Ibis by Mike Schumacher

### Footnote.....

Bruce and I went to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on the 12th...the Maxwell & Colusa unit. The light wasn't great but the birds are out in force. This will be a great area to go back to in better light. Many different kinds of birds, Egrets, Ibis, ducks, Hawks and lots of Snow Geese. Mike



## Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge

Text & **Photo** by Mike Schumacher

Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge is located near Live Oak on highway 99 above Yuba city. There is a 3 mile auto loop tour with places to park. The birds that frequent the wildlife refuges on the pacific flyway are wild birds, unlike the ones encountered in city parks. Most do not tolerate close human presence so shooting from your car is recommended. If you do exit your car move very slowly and do not slam your car door. Snow Geese, Blue Heron, Great Egrets, and many different types of ducks...Northern Shoveler, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, etc. are present here at various times of the year. The best times are December to March. Check out the webpage for travel info.

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region2/graylodge/glwa\\_pages/maps.htm](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region2/graylodge/glwa_pages/maps.htm)



Snow Geese at Gray Lodge

## Wildlife Area Links.....

This is the electronic guide to The Cosumnes River Preserve. If you get to their homepage you can get to other links too.

<http://www.cosumnes.org/siteguide.htm>

<http://www.cosumnes.org/>

<http://www.cosumnes.org/drivingtour.htm>

<http://www.cosumnes.org/map.htm>

<http://www.cosumnes.org/crpschedule.htm>

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*If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items you can list them in the newsletter. Email or call me. Listings are free for members. Mike 530-367-4505 [radioman@ftcnet.net](mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net)*

## 2006 Placer Camera Club Officers

President – Mike Schumacher	530-367-4505	<a href="mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net">radioman@ftcnet.net</a>
Vice President – Richard Myren	530-268-3475	<a href="mailto:rgjk@earthlink.net">rgjk@earthlink.net</a>
Treasurer – Shirley White	530-885-8511	<a href="mailto:padhorski@infostations.net">padhorski@infostations.net</a>
Secretary – Jane Flickinger	530-885-0714	<a href="mailto:jfk@infostations.net">jfk@infostations.net</a>
Judges – Karen Wyatt	530-878-0556	<a href="mailto:kwyatt@cwnet.com">kwyatt@cwnet.com</a>
Newsletter – Mike Schumacher		

## Internet Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.jumbogiant.com>

<http://www.imaging-resource.com/>

<http://www.dcresource.com/>

**Palco** - Large Prints - Local here in Auburn  
Digital Camera Reviews & Photography Info  
Digital Camera Reviews & Photography Info

*Please feel free to contact me with items for the newsletter!*

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505 [radioman@ftcnet.net](mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net)

**See you at the meeting Dec 19th at 7:00 PM!**