

CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Wintu Audubon Society

Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Shasta
and eastern portions of Trinity County, California

January / February 2012

Funding Appeal—A Success!

We were overwhelmed and highly gratified by the response to our recent appeal for funds. Sixty members and supporters donated \$4600 to our general fund that was nearly exhausted by several unanticipated expenditures. These funds will enable us to continue our present programs of field trips, illustrated presentations, education, and community involvement with emphasis on birds and their environment. We are very grateful for your support. Thank you

January Activities

Field Trips

2nd Saturday Bird Walk---Turtle Bay/Kutras Lake, January 14 @ 8:00 am

The great assortment of waders, raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines will have returned and can be seen close up with usually a surprise or two on this half day walk. A recent feature is the Hwy. 44 pedestrian walkway which offers great views of wintering ducks. A White-winged Scoter there was the highlight of the December walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome.

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Battle Creek State Wildlife Area, Thursday, January 19 @ 8:00 am

Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game is restoring riparian habitat along Battle Creek and maintains trails in this wild life area adjacent to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery.

Recently a trail was developed along impoundments all the way to the Hatchery. During this 1/2 -day trip we expect to see a good variety of winter passerines, Bald Eagles, rails and ducks. Assemble in the Redding Convention Center Parking Lot. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are groomed but ground is uneven. Our President, George Horn will lead.

Lema Ranch Outing with the Snow Goose Festival, Saturday, January 28 @ 8:30 am

Join folks attending the Snow Goose Festival in Chico on a tour of Lema Ranch. This oasis of open space in Redding, is excellent year-around birding. The ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell Foundation Headquarters provide an

WINTU A.S. CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM at the United Way, 2280 Benton Drive, Redding.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM also at the United Way meeting room. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 10: Rose LeRoque: *Birds of San Luis Obispo County: A Photographic Essay*

December 13: Bill Oliver: *The Redding Christmas Bird Count: Population Trends and Assessments After 35 Years*

abundance of bird species. We will look for Common Gallenules, rails, and winter resident passerines. This will be a 2-3 hour walk on paved trails with fine public restrooms. We will meet our leader, Frank Sanderson, at the North Parking Lot off Hemmingway Street. Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View School on Shasta View Drive.

General Meeting

Tuesday, January 10 @ 7:00 pm

Birds of San Luis Obispo County: A photographic Essay

Rose LeRoque will present a program on the Brds of San Luis Obispo County, which was compiled by Dave Keeling of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Be prepared for some gorgeous bird pictures, many of species not regularly seen around the Redding area.

February Activities

Field Trips

2nd Saturday Bird Walk---Turtle Bay/Kutras Lake, February 11 @ 8:00 am

We will again explore Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake for winter resident herons, raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and passerines. Many can be seen close up especially from the pedestrian walkway on the Hwy. 44 bridge. A surprise or two is usually in store on this half day walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk with Gary Stacey is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome.

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Clover Creek

Preserve, Thursday, February 16 @ 8:00 am

This flood control area in southeast Redding has many trails through emerging upland vegetation, marshes and ponds. We should find an assortment of dabbling ducks, a rail or two and open-country passerines. A Say's Phoebe seems to be resident. Linda Aldrich will lead this ½ day outing.

Llano Seco Unit, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, and the Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant---Saturday, February 25 @ 7:30 am

Llano Seco has a couple of viewing platforms overlooking large impoundments and marshy islands. We should see a wide variety of dabbling ducks. Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, and geese are likely. Renovation and improvements to the Chico WWTP is complete and includes improved access to birders including a blind. We should again see a variety of dabbling ducks. Meet the leader, George Horn, at the Redding Convention Center to carpool. Bring a lunch for this full-day trip.

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 14 @ 7:00 pm

The Redding Christmas Bird Count: Population Trends and Assessments After 35 Years

Bill Oliver, Compiler of the Redding Count, will analyze population trends of many of our common wintering species. Graphs will illustrate which species are increasing, decreasing or remaining stable in number over the 35-year record.

Please Note: Wintu Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for accidents. You attend at your own risk. A responsible adult must accompany minors on all outings. Rain cancels all activities.

The Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent and in Hawaii. Anyone can participate—from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Here's how:
1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one of more days of the count. You can count

longer than that if you wish. Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like-- one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day, if you count in other locations on that day.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at the same time.

3. When you are finished, enter your results through the web site: www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklist" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1. If you do not have internet access, you can phone (530-941-7741) or email:

wwoliver9@gmail.com Bill Oliver for more directions and your results.

Trip Reports

Local Mid-week Bird Walk, Anderson River Park, Oct. 27

George Horn reports that it was 36 degrees F° when he arrived but seven hardy birders were already present. The weather and the birds quickly warmed up and they ended up with 45 species. Probably the best bird, a Cassin's Vireo, was spotted by Linda Aldrich.

2nd Saturday Birdwalk, Turtle Bay/Kutras Lake, Dec. 10

A dozen birders assembled gradually in very frigid conditions for a fantastic morning of birding with Linda Aldrich in the lead. On the usual route, we saw 62 species. Those who continued the trip to Kutras Lake saw an additional 12 for a grand total of 74! Exciting sightings included Pacific Loon, Peregrine Falcon, White-winged Scoter, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The eagles made several deliveries of sticks to their new nest, near to the old nest, but unfortunately not near enough for the range of the eagle cam. Those people who continued on to Kutras Lake also saw a Black Scoter and Black-crowned Night Herons.

2011-2012 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

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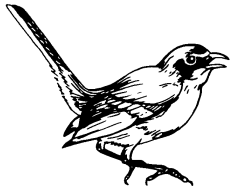
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, Shelly Cerasaro, John Coon, Rose LeRoque, Nola Wade, Janet Wall.

A Victorian View of the Green Heron

Contemned by man, and characterized by the most inappropriate and disgusting nickname, with which almost every one who is conversant with the species must be familiar, our subject asks nothing at the hands of humankind, but rather avoids cultivated scenes, and seems to thrive best where civilization has neither sown nor reaped. Within the precincts of grassy pools and almost impenetrable morasses, where dangerous odors exhale, and myriads of slimy creatures drag their slow lengths along, or startle the shades of night with their bass murmurings, the Green Heron delights to dwell. Here he pursues his craft in the society of his friends and near relatives.

(Gentry, Thomas G. 1882. Nests and eggs of birds of the United States)



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MISSION

Our mission is to conserve
and restore natural
ecosystems, focusing on
birds, other wildlife, and
their habitats for the benefit

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*For the latest Wintu A.S. news and
birding information visit our
website:*

It's a Big Year for the 13th Annual Snow Goose Festival, January 26-29!

Greg Miller is joining the festival this year! Greg is one of the famed birders featured in the 2004 book, *The Big Year*, and portrayed by Jack Black in the recently released movie. Greg will be the Keynote Speaker at the banquet on Saturday night. Hear Greg recount the varied and sometimes humorous experiences of his BIG YEAR birding adventure. In an effort to see as many species of birds as possible on one calendar year, he traveled extensively across North America. He'll share how he got into birding, and how he came to do a big year. Then he'll tell the story behind how his experiences became a book and a movie. Over 70 fieldtrips, workshops and presentations will be offered, along with lots of free activities and events for youth and families. Register online at www.snowgoosefestival.org or by phone at 530-345-18965

The 33rd Annual Winter Wings Festival, Klamath Falls, Oregon, February 17-19

The Klamath Basin Audubon Society invites you to experience the beauty of the Klamath Basin, where hundreds of eagles and other raptors and thousands of ducks, geese, and swans take up residence in winter. A huge assortment of birding and nature-related activities for all ages and skill levels, from novice birder to life-long birding enthusiasts is offered. World-renowned author, naturalist and birding expert, **Kenn Kaufman**, is the featured speaker Saturday evening. He is the author of the cult classic, *Kingbird Highway*, *Lives of American Birds* and editor of *Kaufman Field Guides*. In his talk entitled, *Kingbird Highway; Extreme Birding in Another Era*, he will tell some of the stories behind the story and relates that intense era to today's birding scene. Register online at www.WinterWingsFest.org/register or by phone at 877-541-2473

