



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

November / December 2014

November Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 11 @ 7:00 pm

DVD on "The Ordinary Extraordinary Junco"
With an introduction by Linda Aldrich

Parts of "The Ordinary Extraordinary Junco" were presented at our meeting last January. People were intrigued as to what would be on the rest of this DVD by a lab in Bloomington, Indiana that is engaged in "The Junco Project". We'll resee the introductory chapter to prepare for chapters on diversification south of the Mexican border and evolution in action in the campus juncos at UCSD. The DVD ends with a summary on what we can learn from research on juncos. Join us for some surprising facts about our familiar winter friends, the juncos.

Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay---November 1 @ 9:00 am

Our youth/beginner bird walks will continue through the fall. Bring your family and friends to the Turtle Bay Monolith. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

General 2nd Saturday Bird Walk---November 8 @ 8:00 am

We will return to Turtle Bay and Kutas Lake for the fall and winter seasons. A great cross-section of raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines can be seen close up with usually a surprise or two on this 1/2-day walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk with **Roberta and John Winchell** is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome.

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Lema Ranch, Thursday, November 20 @ 8:00 am

Lema Ranch, an oasis of open space in Redding, is

excellent year-around birding. The ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell Foundation

Headquarters provide an abundance of bird species. We will look for Common Gallenules, Marsh Wrens, Great-tailed Grackles, Lark Sparrows and other Lema Ranch specialties.

This will be a 2-3 hour walk on paved trails with fine public restrooms. Meet our leaders, **Jeannette and Harvey Carroll**, at the north parking lot off Hemmingway Street.

Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View school on Shasta View Drive.

Fall River Valley---Saturday, November 22 @ 7:30 am

This large well-watered valley east of the Cascades has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Always a high species number destination, the Valley is a great place to see wintering raptors, various waterbirds and Sandhill Cranes. Meet your leader **Bob Yutzy** at the Redding Convention Center. Be ready for a full day with a lunch and water. Dress in layers of clothes for changing weather. East-county participants can join the group at either the Park and Ride at the intersection of Hwy. 299 and 89 at 8:00 or the Fall River Vista at 9:00. Rarities are possible!

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

November 11: *DVD on The Ordinary Extraordinary Junco*

December 9: Harry Fuller: *Great Gray Owls in Oregon*

December Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 9 @ 7:00 pm

Great Gray Owls in Oregon

Harry Fuller is an Ashland-based birder and author who is currently writing a book on the Great Gray Owls of Washington-Oregon-California. He is also president of the Board of Directors of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Mr. Fuller will explore the mysteries and the facts surrounding this tallest North American Owl. The southern most members of the species are those nesting in scattered parts of California and Oregon. Klamath and Jackson Counties likely have the largest Great Gray population of any area in the Lower 48 States. He will talk about the owl's ecology, habitat and threats. Some of the best data on the Great Gray Owl's use of nest platforms comes from the Winema National Forest in Klamath County.



Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay---December 6 @ 9:am

Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Bring your family and friends to the Turtle Bay Monolith. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

General 2nd Saturday Bird Walk---December 13 @ 8:00 am

We will visit Turtle Bay and Kutrass Lake for the fall and winter seasons. A great cross-section of raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines can be seen close up with usually a surprise or to on this ½-day walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk with **Chad Scott** is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome.

It's Christmas Bird Count Time Again. Here are the Counts in the Local Area

(Counts are conducted rain or shine. Compilers appreciate being notified if you plan to attend so they can assign sectors and notify the restaurant)

**Fall River Christmas Bird Count—Saturday,
December 14 @ 7:00 am**

Participants will meet at the Fall River Hotel in Fall River Mills for a family-style breakfast and assignments. From Redding, take Hwy. 299E for approximately 75 miles. After crossing the Fall River, take the second right and look for the hotel on the right. Every year, some birders spend the night at this quaint hotel (Phone: 530-336-5550) and avoid the early morning drive. **Eastern Shasta County birders are especially invited to participate.** After the count, dinner and compilation will be in Redding at a location to be announced. RSVP to **Bob Yutzy** (boby@c-zone.net) so the hotel can be given the number they will be serving for breakfast.

**Anderson Christmas Bird Count—Saturday,
December 20 @ 7:00 am**

This will very successful count features much public land with ample opportunities for walking. Meet at the amphitheater parking lot in Anderson River Park for assignments and location of the dinner and compilation. Contact **Frank Sanderson** (darliss60@yahoo.com) for further information.

**Redding Christmas Bird Count—Saturday,
December, 27 @ 7:00 am**

We have compiled 38 years of continuous records from this grand daddy of the local counts which began in 1976 in its current location. Centered near Keswick Dam it stretches from Whiskeytown Lake in the West to Shasta College in the East, and from Shasta Dam in the North to Clear Creek in the South. Assignments will be given in front of the main entrance to the Redding Convention Center. We will assemble at dusk at a local restaurant (location to be announced). For further information contact **Bill Oliver** at 530-941-7741 or wwoliver9@gmail.com.

Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count---Saturday, January 3, 2015 @ 7:30 am

This long-running count was resumed three years ago under the able leadership of **Karen Scheuermann** (karens@gmail.com). Assemble at the Holiday Market, 460 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, for assignments. Dinner and compilation will be announced there.

Trip Reports

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

September 13---Yellow was the color of the season for Wintu Audubon's September Youth and Beginner Walk at Turtle Bay. No longer fully summer, but not yet autumn, four birders enjoyed the sunny weather and a pleasant walk along our usual loop. While initially disheartened by the total absence of any birds at the first pond, we were soon kept busy tracking the excited, kinetic flits of scores of Yellow Warblers, a few Wilson's Warblers, a couple of Western Tanagers, and a smattering of Lesser Goldfinches. Other highlights included Belted Kingfishers, plenty of woodpeckers (Acorn, Nuttall's, and Downy), and a final species count of 30.

October 4---Eight adults and three youths explored Turtle Bay for the ducks of October—and found them! In addition to mallards, the group had good views of Gadwalls, Wood Ducks, American Wigeons, and glimpsed a distant Common Merganser. Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, and plenty of Canada Geese rounded out the fowl on the water. Also present were a couple of Wilson's Snipe, a Western Scrub-jay burying acorns, Great Blue Herons, come-and-go flocks of Bushtits, Cedar Waxwings, and European Starlings, and other passers-by to total 31 species. Next up? The ducks of November!

John Reginato River Access Trail---September 13---

Nine warbler-ready birders spent about four hours marveling the abundance of Yellow Warblers. Best bird of the day would have to be a Northern Waterthrush seen by **Ed Pottmeyer**. We saw or heard a total of 50 species.

Burney Falls State Park & Lake Britton---September 27---

Experienced Wintu Audubon leaders, **Connie Word** and **Dan Greaney**, assisted new trip leader **Chad Scott** guide two longtime members and several area residents to Burney Falls and Lake Britton. A dozen or more Band-tailed Pigeons gathering for a morning drink was the first treat. Interestingly, as each pigeon finished drinking, it would fly across the creek and the next pigeon behind it would move forward for its drink. Meanwhile, a new pigeon would fly in, take position behind the other pigeons to await its turn at the water's edge.

Along the Rim Trail to Lake Britton we spotted a soaring Northern Goshawk, several Dark-eyed Junco's, some nearly fearless Red-breasted Nuthatches. At the water's edge we added a number of species including, Great Blue and Green Herons, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, Western Grebes, White Fronted Geese, and, along the shoreline, sparrows, kinglets, sandpipers, and Killdeer.

We returned to the Falls along the creek side trail where we filled out our day's sightings of woodpeckers and Brown Creepers before returning to our cars to spot the only Mountain Chickadees of the day.

2014-2015 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT—Esther Cox 474-4379
VICE-PRESIDENT—Chad Scott 619-852-4555
TREASURER—Connie Word 245-0846
RECORDING SECRETARY—Jeannette Carroll 246-3634
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY--Beatrice Currie 243-3955

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PROGRAMS--Linda Aldrich 223-5341
EDUCATION—Dan Greaney 276-9693
CONSERVATION-- Janet Wall 547-1189 and Bruce Webb 275-2076
NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131
MEMBERSHIP—George Horn 244-0581
PUBLICITY---Larry Jordan 472-3131
EVENT COORDINATOR---Chad Scott 619-852-4555

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, Harvey Carroll, Catherine Camp, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

Wintu Audubon's Booth Big Attraction at the Return of the Salmon Festival

Saturday in mid-October, and what's a body to do? Go to the Salmon Festival, of course! Once again the festival basked in beautiful fall weather with a happy, nonstop crowd of family sightseers. And once again Wintu Audubon's booth was a busy attraction. Children and parents made over three hundred quail calls! Many magazines were picked up from the "Free" table, and books and T-shirts were purchased. Also, the spotting scope was set up and donations were made into its raffle pool. Through it all, there were opportunities to talk birds with folks both casual and eager. Chapter volunteers were kept on their toes, and for a day not birding, it was pretty darn fun!





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**WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 994533
REDDING, CA 96099-4533**

Membership Application for Wintu Audubon Society

All proceeds from Chapter Membership support Chapter activities, such as our website (www.wintuaudubon.org), this newsletter, youth/beginner bird walks, and advocating for conservation of our natural resources at the local level.

___ Membership in Wintu Audubon Society for one year \$20. Make check payable to Wintu Audubon Society.

___ Membership in Wintu Audubon Society for TWO years \$35. Make check payable to Wintu Audubon Society.

I wish to make an additional donation of \$_____.

New Membership / Change of Address: Please send all applications for Chapter membership and all changes of address directly to your membership chairman:

George Horn

2516 Lake Redding Dr.

Redding, CA 96003