



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 2015

November Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 10 @ 7:00 pm

Audubon California Projects from Around our State
Desiree Loggins, Audubon California's Chapter Network Manager for the Central Valley and the Sierras, will present some exciting projects that the state branch of the National Audubon Society is working on. These include the largest restoration projects that Audubon California has ever attempted, advocacy programs for the birds you love, and partnerships with local chapters that better communities and the environment. Come ready to discuss how to get involved!

Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay-November 7 @ 9:00am

Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of the month throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

Construction of the hotel at Turtle Bay Exploration Park has caused us to change in our meeting place for the Youth/Beginner Walks to the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium. We thank Venture Properties for their help.

Second Saturday Bird Walk---Battle Creek State Wildlife Area, November 14 @ 8:00 am

The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has restored riparian habitat along Battle Creek and maintains trails in this wild life area adjacent to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. A trail runs along Battle Creek to ponds and surrounding marsh all the way to the Hatchery. During this 1/2 -day trip we expect to see a good variety of winter resident passerines, Bald Eagles, and rails (heard only

probably). Assemble in the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are brushed for the most part but pocket gophers have made the ground uneven. **Chad Scott** will lead.

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Clover Creek Preserve, Thursday, November 19 @ 8:00 am

This preserve within the city limits has a large, permanent pond with surrounding cattails and reed marsh, shallow winter pools and uplands planted to oaks. We should see species rare to urban areas such as Western Meadowlark, Western Bluebird, Say's Phoebe and a variety of ducks and other waterfowl. The Great-tailed Grackle has expanded its range northward to include Shasta County and inhabits the cattail marsh. Meet your trip leader, **Linda Aldrich**, at the preserve near the south end of Shasta View Drive for this 1/2-day trip.

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 10: Desiree Loggins: **Audubon California Projects from Around our State.**

December 8: Bill and Randy Bush: **The Redding Christmas Bird Count, A Forty-year Record of Citizen**

For the latest Wintu Audubon Society news and birding information visit our website

www.wintuadubon.org

December Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 8 @ 7:00 pm The Redding Christmas Bird Count, A Forty-Year Record of Citizen Science.

Bill Oliver and Randy Bush will display intriguing trends gleaned from this long study of the populations of our wintering birds. Species that are increasing (some spectacularly) and others that are decreasing or maintaining their populations will be discussed. Bill and Randy hope the audience will share their experiences on these species trends.

Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay-December 5 @ 9:00am

This Youth/Beginner walk will be structured as a mini Christmas Bird Count. We will start and stop at our regular times, 9-11am, but we will attempt to tally the number as well as the species of every bird we find. Come see what's tucked away at Turtle Bay! Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

Second Saturday Bird Walk---December 12 @ 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 leader, **Chad Scott**, at the north parking lot off Hemmingway Street. Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View school on Shasta View Drive.

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 19 @ 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 Angelo's Pizza Parlor at

1774 California Street, (530) 246-9200. The room at Angelo's is reserved for us from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Please RSVP to **Bob & Carol Yutz** (boby@c-zone.net) if you hope/plan to participate and let us know if you want breakfast at the hotel so we can give them an estimated number of folk for breakfast.

Anderson Christmas Bird Count—Sunday, December 20 @ 7:00 am This 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 Ed Pottmeyer edward.pottmeyer@chw.edu for further information.

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

We have compiled 40 years of continuous records from this grand daddy of the local counts that 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 Gironda's Italian Restaurant, 1100 Center St., Redding (530-244-7663) for dinner and compilation. Contact **Bill Oliver** wwoliver9@gmail.com for more information.

Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count---Sunday, January 3, 2016 @ 7:30 am

This long-running count was resumed four 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 5--Turtle Bay in September greeted ten adults and six youths with a welcome sampling of local birds. Canada Geese, Mallards, and Common Mergansers paddled the river and pools. Turkey Vultures soared. Wading birds—Great Blue and Green Herons, Great Egrets, and a couple Killdeer, too—patrolled the river's edge. An Anna's Hummingbird displayed the art of flycatching, and a Black Phoebe made a cameo appearance. Bushtits and White-breasted Nuthatches picked at leaves and branches, while a Western Tanager and Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers added migrating color to the lesson on gleaning insects. Overhead a late swirl of Tree Swallows cleared the air. A family of California Quail scuttled from the bird-

watchers, and a House Wren eyed us like a prosecuting attorney. Only the woodpeckers and seed-crackers were notably absent, and we look forward to seeing them and more ducks in the coming months.

October 3--Six adults and one youth enjoyed a pleasant morning making a loop from the Sundial Bridge. The number of birds wasn't stunning—**Jeannette Carroll** tallied 25 species—but their behavior was engaging. Canada Geese dabbled, Mallards flocked, Killdeer waded, a Great Egret preened, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler gleaned second breakfast in a young pine. A one-legged Great-blue Heron stood stoically, its missing foot tucked away warm. Turkey Vultures soared, and a Red-shouldered Hawk objected to an overhead accipiter. Double-crested Cormorants sunned spread-eagle, and another wrestled with a fish snatched up from the ripples. As the fourth grader said, "I didn't get as much bingo today, but we saw a lot."

*Apologies to any who missed the walk because of our hotel construction displacement. With that construction ongoing, our Turtle Bay walks will now meet at Venture Properties, the first left in front of the Convention Center.

Arcata Marsh, September 26--Ten birders from Redding, ranging in age from 7 years to 94 years old, made the journey to the coast. Some drove over on Friday and spent the day birding, others stayed over on Saturday night and made a weekend trip of it. We joined a like number from Redwood Region Audubon for their weekly bird walk at the Arcata Marsh. Thanks to the sharp eyes and ears of our leader, Gary Bloomfield, and a young 17-year-old birder from Washington, we ended up with 76 species. Best birds for the group were Northern Waterthrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and 2 Eurasian Wigeon, plus a Red-legged Frog. Gary designed our beautiful Belted Kingfisher logo, by the way!

Local Weekday Bird Walk--Cascade Community Park, October 15 Five birders enjoyed a morning of birding in mild weather. None of the 37 species that we saw was rare or unusual, but we did see some interesting behaviors. Two Belted Kingfishers (our chapter's logo bird) interacted in an apparent territorial "discussion" and a male Anna's Hummingbird repeatedly rose slowly to a great height in the air then did a power dive - despite the non-breeding season so no female would be impressed. Co-trip leader **Jeanette Carroll** who lives in the neighborhood showed us the renowned beaver dam - alas, mostly destroyed by kayakers who wanted that area as a route. Jeanette invited us to her home nearby where we joined her husband Harvey for an interesting session of seeing birds "up close and personal" at their many bird feeders. There, we saw American and Lesser Goldfinches side by side so the differences between them were easily noted. A Nuttall's Woodpecker displayed his handsome post-molt plumage.

2015-2016 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT—Chad Scott 619-852-4555
VICE-PRESIDENT— Linda Aldrich 223-5341
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, Bruce Webb 275-2076, and Catherine Camp 337-6874
NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131
MEMBERSHIP—George Horn 244-0581
PUBLICITY---Larry Jordan 472-3131
FINANCE---Beth Brockman 227-4228
EVENT COORDINATOR---Chad Scott 619-852-4555

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE Harvey Carroll, Catherine Camp, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

Lewiston Lake and Fish Hatchery, October 24--

Ten birders, including two visitors from England, enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Lewiston Lake and fish hatchery. The temperature ranged from 45 degrees in the morning to the 70s in the afternoon. We ended up seeing 49 species. Probably our best bird was an American Coot! In a flock of 600-700 there was one leucistic bird standing out like a flag. Other good birds were Mountain Quail, Brown Creepers (seven, at least), lots of Red Breasted Nuthatches, a Horned Grebe, and 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers. A very birdy day!

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Morro Bay, California, January 15-18

This annual festival (their 20th year) located on California's scenic coast is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival over 200 species were sighted with maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

The keynote speaker Saturday, January 16th will be John Marzluff on "Subirdia"—a very informed and entertaining view of living with humans—if you're a bird.

To register and for more information, checkout the website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org. Early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 994533
REDDING, California 96099-4533

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17th Annual Snow Goose Festival, January 27-31 in Chico, California

Birders and nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend one of the premier birding events in California. This action-packed 5-day event celebrates the millions of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway that call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months.

Renowned outdoor and nature photographer, George Lepp, joins the Festival this year as the Keynote Speaker at the "Gathering of the Wings" Banquet and Silent Auction on Friday evening

Attendees can choose from over 60 field trips and workshops that are sure to please a wide variety of interests and ability levels. In addition to numerous bird-watching field trips for waterfowl, raptors and songbirds, you might choose to take a guided tour of a nature preserve, visit a local vineyard, or hike the scenic Sutter Buttes in search of lofty views and resident wildlife. The workshops offer something for everyone! Learn about nature photography, bird carving, how to record nature sounds, how to identify those backyard birds, and much more. Free nature activities are offered for youth, as well as armchair adventurers for all.

For more information and to register checkout the website <http://www.snowgoosefestival.org/> Don't delay in registering as many activities fill up quickly.