



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 2017

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay
Saturday, Nov 4 @ 9:00 am Our youth/
beginner bird walks are conducted on the
first Saturday of every month throughout the
year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars
and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell** at
945-8342, with questions or for more infor-
mation. *We assemble at the Venture Proper-
ties parking lot. Take the first left before the
Redding Civic Auditorium.*



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Nov 14 @ 7:00 pm
Waterfowl Identification Wintu Audubon
presents a night of Waterfowl ID tips by
Mike Carion. Mike is a retired California
Fish & Wildlife employee known for his ex-
pertise on waterfowl. He will focus on the
waterfowl species found in the Shasta
County area with helpful ID tips including
field marks and calls! This refresher will
help you identify these migratory waterfowl
as they build up in numbers during their an-
nual migration to the Sacramento Valley and
parts beyond. If you love to watch waterfowl
but need some helpful ID tips, please join us!

Second Saturday Bird Walk
at Lema Ranch, Nov 11 @ 8 am Lema
Ranch, an oasis of open space in Redding,
offers excellent year-round birding. The
ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell
Foundation Headquarters provide an abun-
dance of bird species. We will look for Com-
mon Gallinules, Marsh Wrens, Lark Spar-
rows and other Lema Ranch specialties. This
will be a 2-3 hour walk on paved trails with
fine public restrooms. Meet at the north
parking lot off Hemmingway Street, across
from Mountain View school on Shasta View
Drive. **Larry Jordan**, at **949-5266** will lead.

Wintu Audubon Society
General Meetings are on
the second Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM at the
United Way, 2280 Benton
Drive, Redding. The public
is invited..

Board Meetings are held
on the first Tuesday of the
Month at 7:00 PM at the
United Way meeting room.
All members are urged to
attend to contribute
information and new ideas.



California Quail / Larry Jordan

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Nov 14 @ 7:00 pm
Waterfowl Identification
Mike Carion. will present a
refresher course on
migratory waterfowl that
pass through this area every
year.

Tuesday, Dec 12 @ 7 pm
The Redding Christmas
Count – Can Anything Be
Learned From “Citizen
Scientists”? Since 1975,
the Redding Bird Count has
been documented and
graphed to show that real
population trends have
occurred over the years.
Bill Oliver and **Randy Bush**
will present their compiled
data.



GENERAL MEETING

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Clover Creek Preserve, Thursday, Nov 16 @ 8:00 am Linda Aldrich leads this walk through the 128 acre Clover Creek Preserve where waterfowl, shorebirds, Western Bluebirds and raptors are sure to be seen around the 6 acre lake. Meet in the parking lot off of Shasta View Drive (south of Hartnell). Questions? **223-5341**.

Wintu Audubon All-Day Outing to Fall River Valley, Saturday, Nov 25 @ 7:30 am Always a high species number destination, the Valley is a great place to see wintering raptors, various waterbirds and Sandhill Cranes. Meet your leader **Larry Jordan** at the Redding Convention Center at 7:30 sharp to carpool. Be ready for a full day with a lunch and water. Dress 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 9 am or the Fall River Vista at 9:30 am. Rarities are possible! Contact Larry for more information at **949-5266**.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay Saturday, Dec 2 @ 9:00 am Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell** at **945-8342**, with questions or for more information. *Meet at the Venture Properties parking lot, the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*

Second Saturday Bird Walk @ Turtle Bay/Kutras, Dec 9 @ 8 am Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake are full of migrant waterfowl, raptors and passerines during winter-time. Come join **Sally NeSmith** **831-535-2888** for this event. *Meet at the Sundial Bridge parking lot.*

The Redding Christmas Bird Count – Can Anything Be Learned From “Citizen Science”?
Tuesday, Dec 12 @ 7 pm Wintu Audubon presents **Randy Bush** and **Bill Oliver** discussing real population trends gleaned from 43 years of count data. The Redding Christmas Bird Count has run continuously since 1975, the same year our Wintu Chapter of the National Audubon Society was formed. Randy Bush, Math Instructor at Shasta College, and Bill Oliver, Compiler for the Redding Count, have discovered real changes in the wintering populations from what seemed, at first, to be meaningless ups and downs.

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, Dec 16 @ 7:00 am Participants will meet at the Fall River Hotel in Fall River Mills for a no-host 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 time and location TBA.

Please RSVP to **Bob & Carol Yutzzy** (boby@c-zone.net) if you hope/plan to participate. Also, let them know if you want breakfast at the hotel so they can give the hotel an estimated number of folks for breakfast.

Keep current of upcoming events & birding information.
Visit our website
wintuaudubon.org



CALLING ALL CITIZEN SCIENTISTS!



Join the Christmas Bird Count

It's interesting, fun & a vital tool in accessing changes in species' range in our area.

Be Involved!

Anderson Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, Dec 23 @ 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 from the Compiler, **Brooke McDonald**, bmm11@humboldt.edu. Compilation dinner will be at Humble Joe's, 2631 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson at 5 pm..

Redding Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, Dec, 27 @ 7:00 am We have compiled 43 years of continuous records from this grand daddy of the local counts that began in 1975 in its current location. Assignments will be given in front of the main entrance to the Redding Civic Auditorium. We will assemble at 5 pm at Lulu's Restaurant, 2230 Pine St., Redding (530-243-6251) for dinner and compilation. Contact **Bill Oliver** wwoliver9@gmail.com for more information.

Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, Dec 30, 7 am Meet in the parking lot at 460 Antelope Blvd (northwest of Chestnut traffic light) for assignments. Compilation at 5 pm at M&M Ranch House, 645 Antelope Blvd. Please call if you are coming and what area you prefer. Contact **Karen Scheuermann**, karens2020@gmail.com, 530-347-1687



2016 – 2017 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

President: Dan Greaney 276-9693
Vice-President: Chad Scott 619-852-4555
Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228
Recording Secretary: Catherine Camp 337-6874
Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Carroll
 246-3634, Beatrice Currie 243-3955

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs: Linda Aldrich 223-5341
 Janice Hunter 244-9235
Education: Roberta Winchell 945-8342
Conservation: Janet Wall 547-1189
 Bruce Webb 275-2076
Newsletter: Sally NeSmith 831-535-2888
 Bill Oliver 941-7741
Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan 472-3131
Membership: George Horn 244-0581
 Janice Hunter 244 9235
Finance: Catherine Camp 337-6874,
 Connie Word 245-0846
Field Trip Chairman: Mike Carion 227-3231
Event Coordinator: Chad Scott 619-852-4555

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Ester Cox, Janice Hunter,
 John Winchell

TRIP REPORTS

Youth/Beginner Walk, Sept 2 @ Turtle Bay Smoky skies cleared enough to allow two youths and five adults to explore the Turtle Bay loop. The walk started quietly with the usual across-Hwy 44 Rock Pigeons and a distant Mourning Dove. Once we hit water, however, the birds began to shower around us. Fall warblers were foraging fiercely, led by small cadres of yellows and joined by a sprinkle of black-throated grays and an orange-crowned. Less frenetically, tanagers poked through the riparian trees. An Osprey flapped upriver, and a Green Heron dropped into the tules. The residents

included Scrub-Jays, Northern Flicker, California and Spotted Towhees, White-breasted Nuthatches, House Wrens, a Nuttall's and a Downy Woodpecker. Mallards and Wood Ducks plied the ponds with the geese, while Common Mergansers clustered in a river eddy. Plenty of early-fall viewing for enthusiastic birders! ~ **Dan Greaney**

Second Saturday Bird Walk, Sept 9 @ Shasta College What felt like a fresh fall morning, for at least a couple hours before the sun reasserted itself, produced forty species at Shasta College—starting with the handfuls of Yellow Warblers that flitted through the Stillwater Creek trees. Highlights included a flock of Lewis's Woodpeckers passing overhead, a Say's Phoebe flycatching in the fields, a few Western Tanagers, and two Savannah Sparrows. Mallards thundered from the sewer ponds, but a half dozen peeps remained. They were joined by three Empidonax Flycatchers feeding on pokeberries.. ~ **Dan Greaney**



Savannah Sparrow/ Larry Jordan

Mid-Week Field Trip, Sept 21 @ Lema Ranch Two birders sequentially joined trip leader **Linda Aldrich** for a pleasant morning of birding. In total, we saw 29 species. Standouts were first-of-season White-crowned Sparrows, a Belted Kingfisher, a couple of Lark Sparrows and site-specialty Common Gallinule. Beginning birder Michelle was charmed by a flock of Lesser Goldfinches while more-experienced Tina appreciated the less common birds.

Wintu Outing to Meiss Lake, Sept 26 Only two birders spent an extended, leisurely day in and around Meiss Lake. We stopped at the Grass Lake rest stop for a quick break and, among the seventeen species seen there, we found a large group of Red Crossbills and Cassin's Finches working

the heavily laden pine trees for their treasured seeds. Also at Grass Lake were a couple of Clark's Nutcrackers!

We travelled on to Meiss lake where we tallied sixty-eight species including very impressive numbers of American Goldfinches, Violet-green Swallows, Long-billed Dowitchers, and American Avocets, each species registering in the hundreds! Among the avian stars were Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Vaux's Swift, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Mountain Bluebird, and both light and dark morph Ferruginous Hawks! ~ **Larry Jordan**

Youth/Beginner Walk, Oct 7 @ Turtle Bay The day was an outstanding bright

October day. One of our birders was anxiously hoping to see a Kingfisher for her very first time. We put ourselves on high alert.

As we began our walk, we were greeted by Sparrows, Warblers, and Nuthatches on both sides of the trail. As we neared the main waterway, there were American Widgeons, Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, Hooded Mergansers, and Ring-necked Ducks. The most amazing display happened when one Belted Kingfisher suddenly rocketed over the pond. Seconds later, another one buzzed by. We watched the pair chase each other making several flybys right over our heads! It couldn't have ended more perfectly! The total bird count was 22 different species.

~ **Roberta and John Winchell**

Second Saturday Bird Walk @ Mary Lake, Sat Oct. 14 A blustery day awaited seven birders on a clear morning. Mallards and American Widgeons were most prominent with a few Gadwalls and Wood Ducks in the mix. Green Heron, Great Egret, Long-billed Dowitchers and Killdeer worked the shoreline. Cormorants gathered on the rock islands. Fox Sparrows, Oak Titmice, Ruby-

crowned Kinglets, warblers and a group of Bushtits came out of hiding. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Flickers, Downey and Acorn Woodpeckers joined the Robins and Black Phoebes.

The usual crowd of Canada Geese seemed missing until toward the end of the walk a flock did a flyover and landed in the lake along with a small contingent of White-fronted Geese. A total of 35 species were identified ~ **Sally NeSmith**

Mid-Week Field Trip, Oct 17 @ Anderson River Park Seven birders met at Anderson River Park in cool, clear weather conditions. The riverfront trail is still closed, but the park offers plenty of birding on its many other trails. Before we left the parking lot, a large flock of Canada Geese flew over accompanied by a couple of Cackling Geese; and a Yellow-billed Magpie flew in, calling raucously. The small part of the riverfront still available afforded views of Wood Ducks in their usual haunt. The most exciting sighting was of a White-tailed Kite flying over the river. We saw a Belted Kingfisher, our chapter logo bird, from the new fishing pier. It



*Photos by
Larry Jordan*



was a thrill to welcome back one of our winter visitors, the Hermit Thrush. In all, we identified 44 species during a pleasant morning of birding. ~ **Linda Aldrich**

Return of the Salmon Festival, Oct 21 @ Coleman Fish Hatchery The Return of the Salmon Festival may have been low on fish, but there were plenty of quail calls sounding around the hatchery grounds!

Thanks to Bea Currie's organization, over a dozen Wintu Audubon volunteers had opportunities to chat with the public, meet other presenters, sell bird-related raffle tickets, offer chapter information and magazines, teach about birds (thank you Jeanette and Harvey, whose nest display and informative posters unfailingly draw folks young and old), and guide some 300 visitors through the irrepressible attraction of making and sounding off through the quail calls. It's rumored that ebird noted a spike in quail reports that day.

NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

Central Valley Birding Symposium, Nov 16–19 at the Stockton Hilton in Stockton. We have well-known speakers, multiple field trips, artists' displays, vendors and birders. The number of participants usually reaches near complete capacity so plan to register early if you want to attend. Go to cvbirds.org/events/symposium.

Update on Access to Clear Creek Waste Water Treatment Ponds Plant management has placed combination locks on both the gate across from the Administration Building and the one at the ponds. After signing a Waiver of Liability during office hours 7:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, birders will be given the combination code for the locks. The ponds will be available on weekends, as well, but during office hours be sure to sign and out.

WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 994533
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North State
GIVING TUESDAY

November 28th, 2017

**Wintu Audubon will be participating in the
North State Giving Tuesday!**

Thanksgiving • Black Friday • Cyber Monday • Giving Tuesday

We invite you to “give where you live” for the benefit of our local nonprofits that do such important work in Shasta and Siskiyou counties.

Think of Wintu Audubon & your feathered friends on this day. Log on to:



northstategives.org

