



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 2018

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay

Saturday, Nov 3 @ 9:00 am We invite beginners of all ages to our introductory walks on the first Saturday of each month. The walks begin at 9am and meet in the parking lot near the Monolith structure at the end of the Sheraton Hotel. Binoculars and field guides will be available to loan. Call **Roberta Winchell, 530-945-8342**, for more information.

Second Saturday Bird Walk at

Cascade Community Park, Nov 10 @ 8:00 am. Located at the end of Girvan Road east off Hwy 273, this small park borders the Sacramento River at the confluence of Olney Creek. The ½ mile paved trail has several dirt trails providing access to the river and the mouth of Olney Creek. Eighty winter resident species have been seen, including Hooded Merganser, Merlin, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-billed Magpie (they used to be abundant in a large Valley Oak in the NE corner of the park; a few survived the virus), plus the usual backyard species. Meet your leaders **Jeannette and Harvey Carroll** at the park at 8:00am for this ½-day walk.

GENERAL MEETING

What's Belize Got That We Don't?, Tuesday, Nov 13 @ 7:00 pm Not yellow-billed magpies, but plenty of their own beauties! Chapter

members **Jay & Terri Thesken** accompanied several US Fish & Wildlife birders along with two naturalists from Belize on a boat trip through Belize and Guatemala last January. Their resulting slideshow includes shorebirds, pelagic birds, tropical birds, raptors and songbirds. Come join Jay and Terri as they present their travelogue.



Photo by Larrv Jordan

Mid-week Field Trip at Clover Creek, Nov 15

@ 8:00 am In previous Novembers, Clover Creek Preserve has had some real treats for birders (though not guaranteed), including White-tailed Kite, Cedar Waxwing and Say's Phoebe. More likely are a variety of sparrows such as Fox Sparrow and Lark Sparrow. Several duck species will be there: Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, occasionally Green-winged Teal and others. The vernal pools (if filled) may

attract Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Open space birds such as American Pipit, Western Bluebird and Western Meadowlark are usual. Join trip leader **Linda Aldrich** in the parking lot off Shasta View at Venus Street at 8:00 am for this half-day trip.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, Dec 1 @ 9:00 am We invite beginners of all ages to our introductory walks on the first Saturday of each month. The walks begin at 9am and meet in the parking lot near the Monolith structure at the end of the Sheraton Hotel. Binoculars and field guides will be available to loan. Call **Roberta Winchell, 530-945-8342**, for more information.

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Dec 11 @ 7:00 pm Birds, Mummies and Geoglyphs of Far Northern Chile.

Catherine Camp and Bill Oliver are going to take you on a tour of Far Northern Chile, where the Atacama Desert (the driest, hottest desert on earth) and the Altiplano (a high Andean steppe) exist within a few miles of the Pacific Ocean. These fascinating and unusual geographies have created a wide variety of birds and distinct, ancient cultures. On the coast we will look at the 8000-year-old Chinchorro culture, including mummies from before 5000 BC. And on the Atacama Desert we'll look at a few of the hundreds of geoglyphs, 400 to 1200 AD drawings on stone and arrangements of stone, some of which cover enormous areas on the slopes of hills and on the desert floor.

Fall River Christmas Bird Count Saturday, Dec 15 @ 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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Please join us for the Christmas Bird Count! It's fun, interesting & a vital tool in assessing changes in species' range in our area. Counts are conducted rain or shine. Compilers appreciate being notified if you plan to attend so they can assign sectors and notify participating restaurants.

drive. **Eastern Shasta County birders are especially invited to participate.** After the count, compilation will be held at Round Table Pizza on Lake Blvd. behind MacDonald's Restaurant in Redding. The room at Round Table Pizza is reserved for us from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Please RSVP to Bob & Carol Yutzky (boby@c-zone.net) if you hope/plan to participate and let them know if you want breakfast at the hotel so we can give them an estimated number of folk for breakfast.

Anderson Christmas Bird Count Saturday, Dec 22 @ 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 Brooke McDonald, (bmm11@humboldt.edu) for further information.

Redding Christmas Bird Count Friday, Dec 28 @ 7:00 am

We have compiled 43 years of continuous records from this granddaddy 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 at the Redding Civic Center. We will assemble at dusk at Lulu's Eating and Drinking Establishment, 2230 Pine Street, Redding (530-243-6251) for dinner and compilation. Contact Bill Oliver (wwoliver9@gmail.com) for more information.

Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count Saturday, Dec 29 @ 7:00 am

This long-running count was resumed six years ago by Karen Scheurermann and is now under the able leadership of Michele Swartout. Contact Michele (michele31@sbcglobal.net) if you have a preferred area. Assemble at the Holiday Market, 460 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, for assignments. Compilation and dinner will be at M & M Ranch House, 645 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff.

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.

TRIP REPORTS

Manzanita Lake, Sept 29 Eight enthusiastic birders enjoyed a cool morning on a gorgeous, mostly sunny day, exploring the bird activity from the Manzanita Lake Trail. Some apprehension regarding how many species would be available was quickly dashed as several Clark's Nutcrackers foraged in the treetops around the visitor center, a huge flock of Band-tailed Pigeons flew overhead, and several other species were observed from the parking lot.

As we headed down to the lake from the visitor center, a Peregrine Falcon flew overhead and a Bald Eagle was seen perched on a snag. We walked down a trail to Manzanita Creek to find four Fox Sparrows and an American Dipper.

Little did we know, those four Fox Sparrows were only a preview of the more than forty more we would encounter.

Overall, we observed thirty-seven species of birds. Besides those previously mentioned, the best birds spotted were Wilson's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Evening Grosbeak, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wilson's Snipe, Merlin and Cooper's Hawk.

- Larry Jordan



Do you Amazon? Wintu Audubon has an Amazon Smile account. Designate us and we will receive a donation from funds you were going to

Northern California Council Meeting, Oct 13th Wintu sent representative Sally NeSmith to the Northern California Council Meeting in Quincy on October 13th.

After a get-to-know-you dinner on Friday night, Saturday morning started the meeting with a very cold, frosty bird walk in a meadow at Spanish Ranch Road.

The meeting was held on the Feather River Campus and had representatives from Red Bud, Plumas, Altacal, Mendocino Coast, Wintu and State Audubon. We reviewed legislative issues that Audubon supports and for which it advocates.

A great deal of the meeting was about Grebes. Plumas, Altacal and Red Bud have grants to study the Western and Clark's Grebes that nest on Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake, Clear Lake and other smaller lakes in their areas. They presented their data from over the years and the dismaying conclusion was that there were almost no young hatched this year at Lake Almanor.



Illustration by Sally NeSmith

California Audubon has requested that PG&E (managers of the dam levels) mitigate the losses by releasing less water during the critical fledgling stage (late July/August). When PG&E lowers the lake too fast during this time, the Grebes lose their nests, which require 6 inches to several feet of water to float upon. (Interesting fact: Grebes don't fly while nesting - only during migration). The Red Bud chapter study also reported very low numbers of new chicks on Clear Lake and speculated the fires during that critical time prevented chicks coming to term.

Political action - letters, articles and discussions - was of course encouraged.

During the afternoon session, each of the groups gave an update on what they have accomplished. Of course, I bragged about Wintu Audubon.

- **Sally NeSmith**

Return of the Salmon Festival, Oct 20 Thanks to the wonderful team who helped at the Return of the Salmon Festival! We staffed three tables, plus Harvey and Jeannette's rich nest and hazards displays. We made nearly 350 quail calls with children and their parents, and handed out a sizable stack of Family Walk flyers. Numerous magazines and books were picked up, and generous donations left in return. We ran out of chapter newsletters and stickers, and garnered another seventy signatures on the local Climate Action plea. It was a beautiful day - just ask George and Larry!!

- **Dan Greaney**

Return of the Salmon Festival, Part 2 After helping set up our booth at the Salmon Festival, George and I took the opportunity to bird from the fish hatchery to Battle Creek State Wildlife Area. We tallied 35 species including a flock of 22 Cedar Waxwings, several Pied-billed Grebes, Marsh Wrens and Common Gallinules, a single Belted Kingfisher, scores of Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, a Bald Eagle, and at least 70 Turkey Vultures circling overhead. Best birds were a Sora, a Lincoln Sparrow and three Wilson's Snipes that were spotted flying over different areas of the marsh.

- **Larry Jordan**

IN OTHER NEWS

The President of Wintu Audubon's Board, Dan Greaney, was asked by Audubon California to sign an Open Letter in defense of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) as a way of securing ecosystem-based management of

Board of Director OPENINGS

We have several positions to fill out our Board of Directors:
Vice President, Program Chair
Membership Coordinator.

This an opportunity to get involved in your local Wintu chapter. We welcome new ideas and perspectives. There is a monthly board meeting where

events are planned, policy discussed, issues raised. Be a part of a dedicated, friendly group.

Contact Dan Greaney
@ 276-9693



forage fish and invertebrates - an important part of seabird diets. Here is an excerpt from the letter Dan signed on behalf of Wintu Audubon: "Dear Legislator: On behalf of the Audubon-affiliated organizations and our more than one million members who care about birds, we stand together to oppose any legislation that would increase the chances of overfishing and we support enhanced protections for seabirds and their prey. Seabirds are currently threatened by oil spills, contaminants, habitat disruption, incidental take, and overfishing and we need to create solutions to protect seabirds and sustain their prey.

Over the past four decades, Republicans and Democrats have worked together to tackle chronic overfishing of our nation's fisheries by signing into law and reauthorizing the MSA. This law protects our Nation's ocean fisheries and has been successful for decades. Through implementation of the MSA, fishery managers have recovered 44 fish populations and ensured that overfishing is at an all-time low.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 200, the "Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act." We oppose this legislation."

2017 – 2018 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

President: Dan Greaney 276-9693

Vice-President:

Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228

Recording Secretary: Catherine Camp 337-6874

Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Carroll 246-3634

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Jody Greaney 646-9631

Conservation: Janet Wall 547-1189
Bruce Webb 515-5324

Newsletter: Lis Peery 323-362-0026

Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan 949-5266

Membership: George Horn 244-0581, Janice Hunter
244-2935

Finance: Catherine Camp 337-6874

Field Trips: Linda Aldrich 223-5341



DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Bea Currie, Esther Cox, Bill Oliver,
George Horn, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith



Photo by Larry Jordan



Keep current of upcoming
events & birding information.

Visit our website
wintuadubon.org

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We were honored to once again participate in the Return of Salmon Festival at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery on Saturday, Oct 20.

