



# 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 2019

### NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

#### Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Saturday, November 2nd @ 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 **Terri Lhuillier, 515-3504**, for more information.

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk at Clover Creek Preserve, November 9th @ 8:00 am

Clover Creek Preserve offers 128 accessible acres of grassland, mixed oak woodland, and a 6.7 acre lake. Winter migrants should be settling in to this inviting habitat. Meet trip leader Dan Greaney (276-9693), for this half-day trip at the preserve parking area, 3705 Shasta View Drive, Redding, at 8am.

**Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place.**

All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

**Wintu Audubon Society General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive, Redding. The public is invited.**

#### General Meeting - Birds of Southern Africa, Wednesday, November 13th @ 7:00 pm

Last September, David Bogener and his wife Becky spent 23 fortunate days on safari in Southern Africa. They visited camps in Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. For a biologist and a photographer it was, David says, "definitely a bucket list trip." He will be sharing his crisp wildlife images from the trip including a few of the 140 life birds they recorded. Come learn of the African wildlife!

Thanks to Andrea Claassen for her presentation on Riverine Birds in Cambodia! To learn more about her work [go to this link](#).

[Help Save the River Tern!](#)

#### Shasta Environmental Alliance Environmental Champions Awards, Friday, November 22nd @ 6:30pm

Wintu Audubon collaborates on local environmental efforts with the Shasta Environmental Alliance, (SEA) a consortium of North State conservation-oriented groups headed by David Ledger. SEA will hold its first annual "Environmental Champions Awards" social at 6:30pm on Nov. 22 at the First United Methodist Church, 1825 East Street, Redding. Refreshments will be available. A \$10 admission fee is requested--all for a good cause! Come celebrate some of the champions of local causes worth valuing!

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Fall River Valley,  
Saturday, November 23rd @ 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 Kutras Park 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**

**Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay,  
Saturday, December 7th @ 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 **Terri Lhuillier, 515-3504**, for more information.

**General Meeting - California Birds in a  
Changing Climate, Wednesday, December  
11th @ 7pm at the McConnell Foundation**

As our climate changes, the entire web of life must adapt or perish. If a flower blooms earlier due to increased temperatures, insects that depend on that flower must hatch earlier, and birds that consume those insects must arrive from their spring migration earlier. Whether birds will be able to adapt to this change is uncertain. National Audubon has determined that 50% of birds will be threatened by climate change. During this program, Dr. Wendy Schackwitz will explain the science behind this research and provide a set of actions that you can take to help climate-threatened birds. She will discuss how Citizen Science projects such as Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts were used to identify bird population trends.



Dr. Schackwitz will also describe how two new Citizen Science projects, Bird Seasons and Climate Watch, are improving our understanding of these trends. Interested in helping? On December 12th, the day following her presentation, she will lead a free workshop that will explain in detail how you can help by participating in either, or both, of these two programs. The workshop will begin at 8am at Lema Ranch with limited space.

For more information email Larry Jordan, [Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org](mailto:Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org)

**NOTE: This presentation and following workshop will be held at the McConnell Foundation Headquarters at 800 Shasta View Drive and require reserve seating! Reserve your seat for the presentation [HERE](#). If you are serious about participating in the workshop, reserve your seat [HERE](#).**



### **Fall River Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 14th @7am**

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, compilation will be held at Round Table Pizza on Lake Blvd. behind MacDonald's Restaurant in Redding. Please RSVP to Bob & Carol Yutzy ([boby@c-zone.net](mailto: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, December 21st @7am**

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](mailto:bmm11@humboldt.edu)) for further information.

### **Redding Christmas Bird Count, Friday, December 27th @ 7am**

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 Auditorium. 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](mailto:wwoliver9@gmail.com)) for more information.

### **Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 28th @7am**

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](mailto:michele31@sbcglobal.net)) if you have a preferred area. Assemble at the Holiday Market, 460 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, at 7am for assignments. Compilation and dinner will be at M & M Ranch House, 645 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Beginner/Family Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, September 7th**

Only one family was represented on the Family Walk, but the birds did not disappoint. Their theme was "Fall Colors." Mallards wore eclipse plumage, showing very little green. Their browns were echoed and reddened by mergansers, colors repeated and revised in the feathers of both house and Bewick's wrens. A red-breasted nuthatch added its rufous hue. But the really dominant autumn colors were yellows, both muted and brilliant. The estimate of yellow warblers was 65, and no doubt a studied focus would have recorded many more. The birds were hyperphagic, darting through canopy and riverside brush in a feeding frenzy as they funnel down from the mountains and gather energy for their long flights to Central and South America. A willow flycatcher added its soft yellow, and what was guessed to be a young Bullock's oriole stopped to sup on grapes. A beautiful day as our nesting birds head for their winter homes.

**-Dan Greaney**

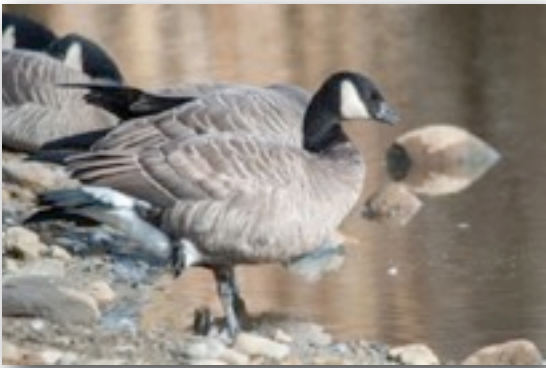
### **Second Saturday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch, September 14th**

Seven confident bird watchers recorded 34 species on a beautiful sunny day at Lema Ranch. Fall migration seems to be well underway with over a dozen Yellow Warblers making themselves obvious, a Willow Flycatcher spending a decent amount of time

out in the open and a juvenile White-crowned Sparrow quickly finding cover. Other sparrows found include nine Lark, three Savannah and three Song Sparrows. A couple of surprises were a persistent Ash-throated Flycatcher and three Barn Swallows flying over Leah's Pond.  
- **Larry Jordan**

**Local Weekday Bird Walk at John Reginato River Access Trail, September 19th**

It was a cool, sunny day as four weekday birders set out on the John Reginato River Access Trail. This nearly one mile trail offers excellent riparian habitat and access to the Sacramento River. The leisurely walk began with a good look at a Barn Owl resting under the South Bonnyview bridge. We quickly spotted a dozen Wild Turkeys on the adjacent golf course and watched an interesting game of tag between a Common Raven and a Cooper's Hawk! Three species of warbler were observed, eight Yellow Warblers, one Orange-crowned and one Black-throated Gray. A couple of the birders observed life birds including four Cackling Geese. - **Larry Jordan**



**Beginner/Family Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, October 5th**

It was a lovely, crisp October morning filled with a wide variety of birds for our small but observant group of birders. We headed straight to the ponds along the 44 Trail and were quickly rewarded with sightings of a Great Egret, a Great Blue Heron, a Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Magpies, Mallards, Wood Ducks and America Wigeons. We then circled around on the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary Trail and were treated to a nice variety of smaller birds

including Northern Flickers, California Scrub-Jays, Black Phoebes, American Crows, Mourning Doves, Yellow Warblers, Spotted Towhees and White-crowned Sparrows. We finished up our walk along the Sacramento River with some small flocks of Canada Geese, Cormorants near the riverbank and Turkey Vultures and an Osprey flying overhead.  
- **Terri Lhuillier**

**Second Saturday Bird Walk at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, October 12th**

A chilling morning turned into a very pleasant sunny day allowing five birders to observe 54 species at the Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Numbers of some species were unusually large. We estimated at least 65 Killdeer and two large flocks of American Pipits numbering 120. Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant. A few of the best birds spotted were an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Caspian Tern, and a Tundra Swan!  
- **Larry Jordan**

Thank you to Steven & Kathleen Callan and Barb Klasson for their generous recent donations to the chapter. Such donations help us to further the array of educational outreach and conservation efforts that we all value

**Local Weekday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Exploration Park Arboretum, October 17th**

A beautiful morning at the Turtle Bay Arboretum greeted five birders. We meandered along the paths to find a Yellow-billed Magpie, White & Golden-crowned Sparrows, a Lincoln Sparrow, many Spotted Towhees and a few California Towhees. A lot of Yellow-rump Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, House Finch and many Goldfinch (Lesser & American) were observed. Woodpeckers were abundant: Acorn, Downy, Nuttall's, Northern Flickers and a

Red-breasted Sapsucker. We circled the Willow Pond trail and were treated to a lot of Anna's Hummingbirds zipping around our heads, a pair of Bald Eagles, Red-winged Blackbird, Crows and Ravens. Returning to our meeting spot along the river trail, we saw Canada Geese and an Osprey. We spotted 42 species total. A fun morning with good company.

- Sally NeSmith

### **Wintu Audubon Outing to Ash Creek State Wildlife Area, October 26th**

On a warm clear, fall day when most of us would have rather had rain, seven birders gathered at the visitor center far out Shasta into the corner of Lassen and Modoc Counties to a little known State Wildlife Area. The rainless fall was evident at the refuge as waterbirds were absent except for a dozen Greater Yellowlegs and a few American Coots. Highlights were one Ferruginous Hawk and three Rough-legged Hawks. Altogether we tallied 29 species, less than expected but like all birding outings several memorable sightings of birds in action.

### **2019 – 2020 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

#### **OFFICERS**

**President:** Dan Greaney 276-9693

**Vice-President:** John Winchell 241-1448

**Treasurer:** Beth Brockman 227-4228

**Recording Secretary:** Catherine Camp 337-6874

**Corresponding Secretary:** Jeannette Carroll 246-3634

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Programs:** OPEN

**Education:** Terri Lhuillier 515-3504

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

**Newsletter:** Larry Jordan 472-31311

**Webmaster/Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131

**Membership:** George Horn 244-0581

**Field Trips:** OPEN

#### **DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Harvey Carroll, Linda Aldrich, Bill Oliver, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith, Roberta Winchell

### *The 23rd Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 21st thru 24th*

Judged by many as one of the premier birding events in the West, the CVBS is hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club. 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. For more information contact Susie Nishio at [cvbsreg@gmail.com](mailto:cvbsreg@gmail.com)



### **Coffee - Organic, Fair Trade, and Shade Grown**

Most coffee is grown in monocultures that replace rich tropical habitat with biological wastelands. Shade-grown coffee produces less beans/acre, but our migrants and the local fauna can thrive in the diverse habitat.

Birdsandbeans.com is working with Audubon to provide a bird-friendly brew, available in light or dark roast, regular or decaf, whole bean or ground. Cost: \$11.70 per 12 oz. bag.

(Depending on the size of our order each month, that price may include up to 64 cents as a donation to Wintu Audubon.)


To order: Orders may be placed at each Audubon monthly meeting and picked up at the next meeting, or contact Stephanie Hughes at [shughess123@gmail.com](mailto:shughess123@gmail.com) or 530-771-7938. -- Also watch for the order form, coming soon to [wintuaudubon.org](http://wintuaudubon.org)

P.O. Box 994533  
REDDING, California 96099-4533



# ***CHIRP-N-CHATTER***

**November / December 2019**

*North State*  
**GI**  **ING TUESDAY**  
*powered by Shasta Regional Community Foundation*  
**WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY**



**Join Us December 3rd at [NorthStateGives.org](http://NorthStateGives.org)**