



# 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

## January / February 2017

### JANUARY ACTIVITIES

#### General Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan 10 @ 7:00 pm**

**Dr. Brett Furnas** of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will discuss ongoing multi-species songbird surveys that use automated recording devices at over a hundred sites each year across public and private forestlands throughout northern California. The purpose of this long term project (15 years so far) is to monitor population trends and to be able to link changes to land use or climate change for informing conservation planning.

#### January Field Trips

##### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, Jan 7 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

*Please remember that we now assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bird Walk

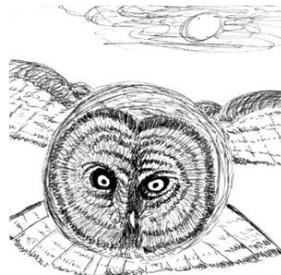
**Mary Lake, Jan 14 @ 8 am** This small lake in west Redding yields a variety of birds in spite of the drought in recent years. Last fall a Pectoral Sandpiper was a surprising

visitor and a Eurasian Wigeon spent much of the summer there. We will walk the 1-mile, paved trail around the lake with a side trip to the Old Catholic Cemetery. Assemble at Lakeside Drive at the trail head to meet your leader **Bill Oliver**.

##### Local Mid-Week Bird Walk

##### Cascade Park

**Thursday, Jan 19 @ 8:00 am** This small park in southeast Redding fronts on an oxbow slough of the Sacramento River and the confluence of Olney Creek. Abundant riparian vegetation and still water attract duck and wading birds and open fields provide a variety of habitats. A wide paved path circles the park. Meet our leader,



**Wintu Audubon Society 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

**January 10: Dr. Brett Furnas** of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will discuss ongoing songbird surveys.

**February 14: Dave Bogener** will share photographs from the Great Basin.

**Linda Aldrich**, at the park. It is located at the end of Girvan Road. Look for Girvan Road on the left off Hwy. 273 north of the Clear Creek bridge.

### **Saturday All-Day Birding Trip Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, January 28 @ 7:30 am**

This nationally known gem is well worth the 90-mile drive. Enormous numbers of waterfowl fill the sky and numerous impoundments in fall and winter. Snow, Ross' and Greater White-fronted Geese, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers and Gadwalls are assured. Possibilities are White-faced Ibis, Green-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilts and various raptors. We hope to provide 2-way radios to report sightings and alert people in other cars to look for them. Most of the birding is done from cars. Meet at Kutras Park on Park Marina Drive to carpool. (See map.) Bring a lunch for this full-day trip. **Mike Carion** will lead.

*Meet at Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*

### **2nd Saturday Bird Walk**

**Clover Creek, Feb 11 @ 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. This winter's abundant rain should provide numerous shallow pools for shorebirds. We should also 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, **Chad Scott**, at the preserve near the south end of Shasta View Drive for this ½-day trip.

## **FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**

### **General Meeting**

**Tuesday, Feb 14 @ 7:00 pm**

**Dave Bogener** will return to display his photos of Great Basin wildlife (primarily breeding birds) with some background information on the basin itself. You will remember his presentation in September 2015 on the Birds of Mary Lake. His ability to capture our common backyard birds in action was unique and gave us a greater appreciation of their lives.

### **February Field Trips**

#### **Discover Birding at Turtle Bay**

**Saturday, Feb 4 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.



**Local Weekday Bird Walk**  
**Clear Creek Waste Water Treatment Ponds – Thursday, Feb 16 @ 8 am** We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting wintering waterfowl and very early migrating shorebirds. The abundant winter rains should provide abundant open water and muddy shorelines for these species. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 8:00 am to meet your leader, **Matt Gould**. This is a 1/2-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good.

Here are the directions to the Clear Creek Plant. Take Hwy. 273 and look for River Ranch Road after crossing Clear Creek. Cross over the Railroad tracks and turn left on Eastside Road. The entrance on Metz Road is on the right.

**20th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 17 - 20, 2017** To find out how to participate in this citizen science event and add your sightings, go to [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

## How many birds will you find?

**20th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**February 17-20, 2017**



**Join in!** Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

American Robin  
 Photo: Shayna Marchese/GBBC

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

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Chad Scott 619-852-4555  
**Vice-President:** Linda Aldrich 223-5341  
**Treasurer:** Beth Brockman 227-4228  
**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  
**Newsletter:** Sally NeSmith 831-535-2888  
 Bill Oliver 941-7741  
**Webmaster:** Larry Jordan 472-3131  
**Membership:** George Horn 244-0581  
 Mike Carion 357-3873  
**Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131  
**Finance:** Catherine Camp 337-6874  
**Event Coordinator:** Chad Scott 619-852-4555

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Ester Cox, Janice Hunter,  
 John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

**Saturday All Day Birding Trip**  
**Feb 25 @ 7:30 am – Llano Seco & Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant** Llano Seco has a couple of viewing platforms overlooking large impoundments and marshy islands. We should see a wide variety of dabbling ducks. Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, and geese are likely. Renovation and improvements to the Chico WWTP is complete and includes improved access to birders including a blind. We should again see a variety of dabbling ducks. Meet the leader, **George Horn**, at the South side of Kutras Park on Park Marina at 7:30 am to carpool. Bring a lunch for this full-day trip.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Youth/Beginner Walk Nov 5, 2016

The Beginning Bird walk looked so promising that two separate parties explored Turtle Bay!

The first party walked out over the river, where black-and-whites were widespread—Canada Geese, some Coots and Cormorants, a distant gull yanking on the only salmon flesh we saw, a couple Spotted Sandpipers, and just a few Buffleheads to represent the river-ducks. The bywaters, however, were rich in ducks—fleets of Wigeon and Ring-necks joined by Mallards, Gadwall, and at least ten Hooded Mergansers. The Black Phoebes and Yellow-rumped Warblers hunted severally, crowned Sparrows checked out the construction zone, a late Green Heron stood miniscule beneath a spread-eagled Turkey Vulture, and a House Wren came to a little pshing. Blue may have been the color of the day, worn grayly by two Herons, boldly by two King-fishers, and with lazuli-brilliance by one Scrub Jay in particular.

The second birding party, Harvey and Jeannette Carroll, headed to the Rodeo Grounds, and added a Mockingbird, many Coots, more Sparrows and other woodland birds to the morning's count—as well as a fawn and 400+ runners.

### Mid-week Walk – Lema Ranch

**Nov 17, 2016** Six birders gathered at Lema Ranch under initially cloudy skies that gradually cleared, although the temperatures remained cool. The biggest treat was a flock of ten to twelve Hooded Mergansers (males and females). The males were displaying: shaking their heads and jerking beaks skyward. Other birds of note were Western Bluebirds, Dark-eyed Juncos and first of season winter duck residents: Ring-necked Duck, American Widgeon and Bufflehead. A site specialty, Common Gallinule, put in a fleeting appearance. We saw a total of 36 species in a good morning of birding.

### Youth/Beginner Walk Dec 3, 2016

Kids don't know what they're missing! On the prettiest day of December—and I'm writing on December 3<sup>rd</sup>—five lucky adults birded Turtle Bay in our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Youth/Beginner Mini Christmas Bird Count. Ten duck species highlighted the morning, and the pleasant sun highlighted the coppery sheen on Buffleheads and even the ringneck on a Ring-necked Duck or two. Gadwalls paddled close, showing the delicate texturing of their grays and their soft brown falcated plumes. Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes paddled the river bay, along with a few Greater Scaup. Buffleheads and Coots coated the water in numbers that created a new mini-count record of 805 birds sighted. Scores of Crows also contributed. Raptors were, of course, fewer, but included a Cooper's Hawk, a pair of Osprey, and a Red-tail that was almost uniformly charcoal black. Forty species were tallied in just the walk along the north side of Highway 44.



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

[www.wintuaudubon.org](http://www.wintuaudubon.org)



## NEWSWORTHY NOTES

### Giving Tuesday a Huge Success

On November 29th, 2016, the Wintu Audubon Society and 95 other local non-profits engaged in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual North State Gives event coordinated by Shasta Regional Community Foundation. This one-day, on-line only raised \$750,161 for the participating groups. That number smashed the goal of \$500k that the organizers had set for themselves months earlier!

North State Gives was so successful, in fact, that the server hosting the event crashed around mid-day and labored under the heavy burden of all that internet traffic! While a disappointment to some, it's kind of a nice problem to have ... too many people clamoring to support their local groups.

Wintu Audubon Society received donations from 26 individuals as well as a percentage of an incentive pool that was shared among all the participating organizations. Our chapter also received a \$500 bonus, a generous contribution made by Nichols, Melburg & Rosetto, during one of the hourly drawings. WAS closed the day with over \$1800 in total donations!

Thank you everyone who donated to Wintu Audubon and the other area charities and non-profits. Your efforts and generosity were greatly appreciated by the board and all the bird aficionados.



NICHOLS  
MELBURG  
ROSETTO  
ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS

**Special Thanks to**  
Nichols, Melburg &  
Rosetto for your  
generous donation and  
support of North State  
Giving Tuesday and of  
the Wintu Audubon  
Society!



Photo: Larry Jordan

### Who was that bird named after?

**Wilson's Warbler** – Alexander Wilson (1766-1813) Born in Scotland, the “father of American Ornithology” came to the United States in 1794. While teaching school in Philadelphia, his interest in birds was encouraged by William Bartram. Traveling throughout the eastern United States collecting birds, he meticulously noted range, habitat and behavior. His observations were published in his nine-volume *American Ornithology* (1808-1814). It has been said that his contemporary, Audubon, was a great artist with a talent for ornithology, but that Wilson was a great ornithologist with artistic talent. *From: Choate, Ernest A. 1985. The Dictionary of American Bird Names.*

### Burrowing Owl Habitat Needs Your Help

Help is needed to dig eight burrows in the Tuscan preserve in Chico. Anyone who has helped dig these burrows knows that it is hard work digging in the wet soil. The more help we have, the less each of us has to work to finish the project. Contact Larry Jordan at 949-5266 if you would like to lend a hand.



Photo: Larry Jordan

WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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REDDING, California 96099-4533

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**January / February 2017**



*Photo: Larry Jordan*

## **18th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway**

**Wednesday-Sunday • January 25 – 29, 2017**

The Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the entire world, stretching from the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska to the steeps of Patagonia in South America. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year.

A local favorite among these is the majestic Snow Goose. With the estimated overall population of Snow Geese exceeding 5 million, as many as one and a half million use the Pacific Flyway.

Here in Chico and the surrounding communities, we celebrate this magnificent spectacle of nature with the **Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway** with 70 guided field trips & work shops; Junior Naturalist Activities; Snow Goose Festival Wildlife Art Exhibit & Reception; Banquet & Silent Auction; Exhibits & Vendors!

International bird guide and author, **Alvaro Jaramillo**, will share his knowledge and insight into a birder's brain. Come hear his lighthearted and informative explanation of how we identify birds and why birding is a great addition to anyone's life.

Register online: [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org)