

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 2018

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

Saturday, Jan 6 @ 9:00 am Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month throughout the year at Turtle Bay. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell** at **945-8342**, for more information. *We assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan 9 @ 7:00 pm

Resolving a Regulatory Challenge While Enhancing Wildlife Habitat and Creating an Amenity for the Community

Wintu Audubon presents **Martha Slack**, Gen. Mgr., Rio Alto Water District, discussing challenges surrounding the Rio Alto Water District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal in 2010, Rio Alto WD discovered that it would not be able to meet strict new effluent limits for zinc and disinfection products.

The district chose to make improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and remove their discharge from the Sacramento River by creating wetlands for land disposal. The district purchased 78 acres located within the Pacific Flyway and constructed four ponds with two miles of walking trails around the perimeter of the ponds. The dis-

trict held a grand opening for the wetlands and walking trails in May of 2016. The Lake California community has really taken advantage of the walking trails and opportunity for wildlife viewing. The wetlands are currently providing habitat for many a variety of geese, ducks, shorebirds, migrants, as well as deer, coyotes, and river otter.

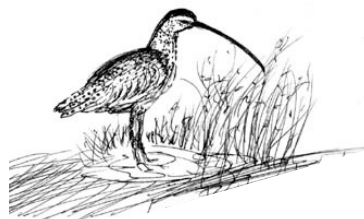
Second Saturday Bird Walk

Battle Creek State Wildlife Area

Saturday, Jan 13 @ 8:00 am Battle Creek has Riparian and wetlands habitat that ensures a great variety of birding. During this 1/2-day trip we expect to see a good variety of winter passerines, Bald Eagles, rails and

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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Jan 9 @ 7:00 pm
Resolving a Regulatory Challenge While Enhancing Wildlife Habitat and Creating an Amenity for the Community. **Martha Slack** of Rio Alto Water District at Lake California shares solutions to meeting stricter pollution regulations while enhancing the community..

Tuesday, Feb 13 @ 7 pm
Florida Birding Hotspots with David Bogener.
Photographs and information on some of Florida's well-known birding spots.

ducks. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are groomed but ground is uneven. Meet **Bill Oliver 941-7741** at the parking lot at Battle Creek Wildlife Area, reached by taking Hwy 5 or Hwy 273 south to Anderson, turning off at the Outlet Mall and following the signs east to Coleman Fish Hatchery.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Anderson River Park, Thursday, Jan 18 @ 8:00 am This walk through beautiful Anderson River Park will be lead by **Linda Aldrich, 223-5341**. Meet at the Anderson River Park Amphitheater parking lot. The river access, ponds, marsh, riparian and oak woodlands are all accessible by an extensive trail system. All varieties of avian life are found here from waterfowl and Bald Eagles to California Scrub-Jays and warblers.

Wintu Audubon Outing to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, Jan 27 @ 7:30 am The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is a national gem, well worth the 90 mile drive to Willows. Enormous numbers of waterfowl fill the sky and the impoundments in fall and winter. Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers and Gadwalls are assured. Possibilities are White-faced Ibis, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Black-necked Stilts and various raptors. Most of the birding is done from cars. We will provide 2-way radios to report sightings and alert people in other cars to look for them. Meet at Kutras Park on Park Marina Drive to carpool and bring a lunch for this full-day trip. For more information call **Larry Jordan @ 949-5266**

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay Saturday, Feb 3 @ 9:00 am Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month throughout the year at Turtle Bay. 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 at Clover Creek Preserve, Feb 10 @ 8 am Clover Creek Preserve has a large, permanent pond with surrounding cattails and reed marsh, and shallow winter pools. Plan to see shorebirds as well as species rare to urban areas such as Western Meadowlark, Western Bluebird, and Say's Phoebe. The Great-tailed Grackle has expanded its range northward and inhabits the cattail marsh. Meet your trip leader at the preserve near the south end of Shasta View Drive for this ½-day trip.



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb 13 @ 7 pm

Florida Birding Hotspots

David Bogener will be sharing photos and information on Florida's birding hotspots, including Ding Darling NWR, Little Estero Lagoon, Corkscrew Swamp, Shady Hollow Rookery, Anhinga Trail, Green Cay Wetlands, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, and other known birding areas.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch, Thursday, Feb 15 @ 8:00 am

Lema Ranch offers various habitats: cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open fields and oak woodlands. These habitats provide good birding in all seasons. Expected to be seen are the Common Gallinule, Great-tailed Grackle, Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird. Meet trip leader at 8:00 am in the parking lot at Hemingway Road off Shasta View.



**Klamath Basin
Winter Wings Festival
February 15-19
Go to
winterwingsfest.org
to register.**

Wintu Audubon All-Day Outing to Grey Lodge, Saturday, Feb 24 @ 7:30 am
 Gray Lodge's diversity and location along the Pacific Flyway make it a haven for wildlife. The approximately 9,100-acre area contains reflective ponds, grassy fields and wooded riparian areas that provide food, water and shelter for more than 300 species of resident and migrant birds and mammals. **Dan Greaney 276-9693**, leads this all-day trip. Meet at the Kutras Parking lot at 7:30 to carpool and bring a lunch.

TRIP REPORTS

Youth/Beginner Walk, Saturday, Nov 4 @ Turtle Bay *Pleasant morning with Pleasant People.* The morning was sunny, windless and perfect in temperature. Ten people of all ages attended the walk hoping to see as many different kinds of birds as possible. We ended up spotting 18 species during the course of the walk. Even though most of the birds that we saw are deemed "common", they are always a delight to spot, watch, listen to and describe. It was also a pleasure having Jeanette along with us that day!
 ~**Roberta and John Winchell**

Second Saturday Walk

Saturday, Nov 11 @ Lema Ranch Five birders took a chance on an overcast morning to enjoy forty very active avian species at Lema Ranch. There were scores of Cedar Waxwings and American Goldfinches working the trees surrounding the parking lot, and plenty of bright blue Western Bluebirds to keep them company. A plethora of White and Golden-crowned Sparrows put on a show all day, highlighted by a few Song Sparrows. There was also a paddling of Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks enjoying Secluded Pond enhanced by a water dance of Pied-billed Grebes, but the highlight of the day had to be the Lewis's Woodpecker at Mule Pond hawking insects from a high perch in a nearby treetop. ~**Larry Jordan**

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 515-5324
Newsletter: Sally NeSmith 831-535-2888
 Bill Oliver 941-7741
Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan 949-5266
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

All-Day Outing to Fall River, Saturday, Nov 25 Wintu Audubon enjoyed a full day of birding in Fall River and McArthur. The Swamp Sparrow made a very brief showing at Fall River Lake, only lasting seconds. Unfortunately, I was the only one spotting it before it dove down into the bramble.

Other goodies at Fall River Lake were Common Loon, Bonaparte's Gull and Clark's Grebe. On the river into the lake was at least one Barrow's Goldeneye drake.

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





Barrows Goldeneye / Larry Jordan

There was a notable lack of raptors on Rat Farm Road but we did find a Rough-legged Hawk and a Merlin on Island Road, and a Red-breasted Merganser plus over 30 Black-crowned Night-Heron at Eastman Lake.

~Larry Jordan

Youth/Beginner Walk, Saturday Dec 2 @ Turtle Bay

Five seasoned birders joined us on a 40 degree overcast morning. We enjoyed the antics of several Yellow-rumped Warblers and were excited to see a Great Blue Heron, a Great Egret and three Snowy Egrets all working the water with their own special tactics. The crowning glory came when we spotted a Merlin that stayed just long enough for Larry to make an ID. He quickly set up the spotting scope and a few of us were lucky enough to see this falcon up close! What a treat! ~Roberta Winchell

Second Saturday Walk

Saturday, Dec 9 @ Turtle Bay A chilly yet beautiful morning lead 6 birders along the Turtle Bay walkway and over the Hwy 44 pedestrian bridge. The Sundial Bridge was still iced over so we could not get over the river there. But the birds were abundant especially winter migrants: Gadwalls, American Widgeons, Buffleheads, Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes. Woodpeckers were well-represented and we spotted five Great Blue Herons and four

Great Egrets. Osprey, Bald Eagle and Red Shouldered Hawks were spotted. A total of 43 species were seen. A very enjoyable morning with good company. ~Sally NeSmith

NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

Lands Pass Now Required for Certain Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Land Access Effective November 2017, several DFW lands were added to the list of wildlife areas and ecological reserves that will require a pass for entry!

This program started in the 1990's for six Wildlife Areas including Grizzly Island and Gray Lodge, has now been expanded to include more wildlife areas and ecological reserves throughout the state. Other wildlife areas and ecological reserves will be added to the list in January and February.

It is very important that you are familiar with the land pass requirement so you may obtain a pass **before arriving** at the areas affected! Day use passes are available online and at DFW offices for \$4.32 a day. You may also opt to purchase a year pass for \$24.33. This all year access pass is good at all of the properties owned by the DFW.

Holders of current fishing and hunting licenses are exempt from the pass requirement as their fees are already used to help maintain the areas.

You may also obtain a Temporary Authorization Number (TAN) by calling 1-800-565-1458 on the day you are planning to enter these areas; however, cell service may not be available at the sites, so it is better to obtain the pass prior to arriving!

A complete list of areas affected by this fee and the application process may be found at the DFW website at the following address: www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass



WINTU BUSINESS

Bylaw Amendment

The Board would like to correct, simplify, and synchronize its calendars to match our Fiscal and Election cycles with our yearly program operation. To complete that change we will request a vote at the February meeting to make these Bylaw amendments. All members at the meeting will be able to vote.

ARTICLE II –

Section 2. ~~The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be held in April at which time new officers shall be installed.~~ *Amend to:* The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be held in May at which time new officers shall be elected and installed.

ARTICLE III –

Section 3. ~~Regular meetings of the Board shall be held one week before each regular meeting of the Chapter, September through June.~~ *Amend to:* Regular meetings of the Board shall be held one week before each general meeting of the Chapter, September through May, plus August.

ARTICLE V –

Section 2. ~~The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for officers and a minimum four Directors At Large, including all Standing Committee Chairs. Its report shall be presented to the membership at a regular meeting two months prior to the Annual Meeting.~~ *Amend to:* The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for officers, including all Standing Committee Chairs and Directors-at-Large. Its nominations shall be presented to the membership at a regular meeting **one** month prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Nominations of officers shall be accepted from the floor at the time of the meeting. ~~Officers and Directors At Large will be installed at the Annual Meeting in~~

~~April.~~ *Amend to:* Officers will be installed at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI –

Section 1. ~~The election of officers and Directors at Large shall take place at a regular meeting of the members held in March of each year one month prior to the Annual Meeting.~~ *Amend to:* The election of officers including Committee Chairs and Directors-at-Large shall take place at the Annual Meeting in May.

Section 2. ~~If there is more than one candidate for any office, the elections shall be by ballot with the winner receiving the majority vote of the ballots cast at which elections are to be held.~~ *Amend to:* If there is more than one candidate for any office, the election for that office shall be by ballot.

ARTICLE XI –

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members in good standing at any regular meeting or any special meeting, regularly called, provided a quorum of members is present, and provided further that ~~ten day notice of such amendments shall have been made available by Chapter website posting or electronic contact as available.~~ *Replace strikethrough with:* notice is given at least ten days prior via Chapter website, electronic communication, or at the previous general meeting.



Anna's Hummingbird / Larry Jordan @ The Birder's Report

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

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January / February 2018



How many birds will you find?

21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count
February 16-19, 2018

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

birdcount.org

Cedar Waxwing
Photo: Jane Toner/GBBC

Citizen Scientists!

**Join the 21st Annual
Great Backyard Bird Count
February 16–19**

Audubon reported that during the 2017 bird count more than 210,000 participants from more than 140 countries submitted their bird observations over the four days of the count. This was the most detailed four-day snapshot of global bird populations ever undertaken.

Participants reported 5,940 species, including 671 species in the United States.

"Citizen scientists are helping us document changes to birds, starting in our own backyards, which is also where the solution begins," said Audubon chief scientist Gary Langham.

Go to birdcount.org for details on how to participate and help out our feathered friends.

