



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 2019

NEW MEETING PLACE & DAYS FOR WINTU AUDUBON!

We send a hearty **THANK YOU** to United Way, which has been providing us with their excellent meeting room free of charge. They are now re-allocating their space to accommodate post-fire services. We leave their site with gratitude and best wishes in their positive community efforts.

OUR NEW MEETING SITE: Another **thank you** to **One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive** in Redding - the second left driveway north from the Diestelhorst Bridge. They also will be hosting us free of charge.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in January, our meetings will **shift from 2nd Tuesdays to 2nd Wednesdays of each month!**

We are so very fortunate to be part of a community so ready to share its resources! And of course, we invite the public to share in our programs!

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Saturday, Jan 5 @ 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

Cal Fire's Statewide Biologist Focuses on Forest Practices, Wednesday, Jan 9 @ 7:00 pm You've heard plenty about wildfires, but you haven't heard it from **Stacy Stanish**, CalFire's statewide biologist focusing on forest practices. What is the interplay of fires, public health, climate change, timber production, and wildlife habitat? We've asked Stacy to give us her insight into these inter-related and important pieces of life in the North State. Come take this opportunity to build our own insight!

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Battle Creek State Wildlife Area, Jan 12 @ 8:00 am

Battle Creek State Wildlife Area has riparian and wetlands habitat that ensures a great variety for birding. During this 1/2 – day trip we expect to see a good variety of winter passerines, Bald Eagles, rails and ducks. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are groomed but ground is uneven. Meet trip leader **Bruce Deuel** 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.

Note: A California Lands Pass is required for the wildlife area. Passes are \$4.32 for a day pass, \$25.10 for annual pass and are available at the CDFW office on Locust Street in Redding, or anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Contact Bruce (736-0898) for details.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk, Thursday,
January 17 @ 8:00 am Turtle Bay**

Exploration Park Arboretum At the North end of the Sundial Bridge is a large natural area accessible by a paved trail. Habitats include views of the Sacramento River, oak woodlands and open grassland. We will see Common Merganser, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted and California Towhees, Western Bluebird, and returning winter resident White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. As always unusual species are probable. Meet our trip leader, **David Pluth**, at the Arboretum parking lot on Arboretum Drive off north Market Street at 8:00 am for this 1/2-day tour.

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Arcata Marsh,
Saturday, January 26 @ 10:00 am, Arcata**

Marsh Join retired wildlife biologist, Humboldt Bay Initiative member and Redwood Region Audubon Society Conservation Chair, **Chet Ogan**, for a full day of very informative birding at Arcata Marsh! With its unique blend of eleven man-made freshwater, brackish, and salt marshes, mudflats, open bay waters, grassland, and upland areas, Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary has about 5 miles of mostly flat trails providing a variety of habitats which attract over 100 species of birds almost any day of the year. The walks that Chet leads typically cover about 2.5 miles and depend on weather, tides, and the possibility of unusual birds. We will learn some of the history of the marsh area, which services Arcata's WTP system.

Plan to meet at 10 am at Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot 569 South G Street, Arcata, for some birding around the marsh then break for lunch across the street at Redwood Curtain Brewery (food truck out back) 550 South G Street, Arcata. In the afternoon we will go to South I Street parking lot and watch the shorebirds march ahead of the rising tide into McDaniel Slough Restoration Area.

Tides at Arcata Marsh Jan 26: low ~10:45 am (1.9 ft) high ~4:40 pm (5.9 ft). Sunrise: about 7:30, sunset about 5:30. There are several covered shelters.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

**Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay,
Saturday, Feb 2 @ 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**, 945-8342, for more information.

**Second Saturday Bird Walk at Clear Creek
Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Feb 9 @ 8 am**

We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting wintering waterfowl and very early migrating shorebirds. We hope that the winter rains will 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, **David Pluth**. This is a 1/2-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good. 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 Rd. Entrance is on Metz Road on the right.

GENERAL MEETING

**The Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to
Canada, Wednesday, Feb 13 @ 7:00 pm** The west coast wilds contain worlds of beauty, and there's nothing like a good walk for an exhilarating and up-close experience of it. One of Wintu Audubon's own, **Zach Winchell**, took that long walk along the Pacific Crest Trail last summer, from Mexico to Canada. Come share a view of the adventure through his photographs!



**Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, Feb 15 –
Monday, Feb 18**

Help researchers at Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab or Ornithology gather important

data on bird populations. Spend at least 15 minutes (no upper time limit!) and record bird sightings in your own backyard or favorite birding place. For more information and to record your findings, go to birdcount.org.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch – Thursday, February 21 @ 8:00 am Lema Ranch offers a variety of habitats, from ponds to open fields, to woodlands attracting many species of birds. In February, the winter ducks (sometimes including the exquisite Hooded Merganser) and winter sparrows will still be lingering and the earliest spring migrants may have begun to appear, such as Tree Swallow. A specialty of the park is Common Gallinule. Larry Jordan's bluebird trail produces (sometimes numerous) Western Bluebirds. Various raptor species are possible such as American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk and Merlin. Please join trip leader **Linda Aldrich** in the parking lot reached from Shasta View to Hemmingway at 8:00 am for an interesting mid-week bird walk.

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 on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive, Redding. The public is invited.

Wintu Audubon Outing to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, February 23 @ 7:30 am The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is a national gem, well worth the short, 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, including Bald

Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. 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 your leader at **7:30 am sharp** at Kutrass Park on Park Marina Drive to carpool and bring a lunch for this full-day trip. Fees to enter the refuge are \$6 per car for the day. Most carpool drivers have senior lifetime passes and can enter for no additional fee. For more information call **Larry Jordan** at 949-5266.



Photo by Larry Jordan

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday, November 15 at Clover Creek Preserve Field Trip

Eight birders (including 2 visitors from Vancouver, Canada) met in the Preserve's parking lot under chilly, smoky skies, reduced visibility and drought conditions. The "best birds" were a first-of-season Say's Phoebe; and about a half dozen Wilson's Snipe. We first spotted 3 of the latter probing the mud with their long, curved beaks. From a different vantage

point we picked out their striped bodies as they walked along the water's edge in front of low-growing vegetation. Whenever they stopped, they disappeared thanks to their cryptic plumage. In all, we saw 30 species – but what we lacked in variety was made up in quantity with at least 45 Savannah Sparrows to comb through looking for White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song and Lincoln's Sparrows.

- **Linda Aldrich**

Thursday, Nov 10 at Cascade Park

Wintu Audubon Society Birders are hardy souls. A group of ten birders met at the Cascade Park Parking Lot at 8:00 AM. on Saturday 10th. The day was clear, but the temperature registered at 34 degrees. We began our tour with the sun on our backs enjoying approximately 35 Western Bluebirds and 10 or more Yellow-rumped Warblers in a very large Valley Oak tree. There were 10 knowledgeable birders in the group who helped identify 40 species of birds.

Besides Passerines, we saw quite a few waterfowl and several species of raptors in the air. After birding Cascade Park, the group went to bird Carrolls' Bird Feeders where we counted quite a few Mallard ducks and numerous Lesser and American Goldfinches. By the time the group arrived at Carrolls, the temperature had soared to 60 degrees and heavy outer layers of jackets could be removed. It was a FUN morning. - **Jeannette Carroll**

Saturday, December 1 - Turtle Bay

Saturday morning found nine intrepid birdwatchers braving the nippy weather to participate in the Family/Beginner bird walk. Redding's typical beautiful skies and Shasta Bally's frosting of snow greeted our group, as well as welcomed back the fall waterfowl migration to Turtle Bay. We identified 42 species, with identification and counting of the waterfowl made difficult by the sheer numbers. We also had the pleasure of observing a gang of seven Snowy Egrets sharing an islet in the river with a Great Blue Heron, who finally felt outnumbered and took off. Raptors were

represented by Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and five individual Ospreys, including one carrying the fruits of a successful fishing expedition.

The highlight of the morning was the sighting of a Phainopepla, a rare bird for our area and a first sighting for me. Fortunately, Larry came with his spotting scope, and Mr. Phainopepla was patient enough to allow all of us to have a great view of him.

I continue to be amazed at the natural beauty of our community and the diverse wildlife even within sound of the freeway and am grateful for the opportunity that these bird walks provide us to get out and appreciate it with others. Please join us! - **John Winchell**

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



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Like most of us, I imagine, I came into birding because they are beautiful. In color, form, behavior, and poetic power, birds are fascinating and moving. Unfortunately, one cannot much explore their world without becoming aware of the steep declines in their

well-being, and the loss their reduction signifies for all of us. I find that, if I value the birds and their contribution to the world, I have to take steps to protect them.

Some of the steps are individual. Some of them must be larger--societal and political. If you would like to be part of that larger voice through Wintu Audubon email contact, please send "yes" from your email

to webmaster@wintuaudubon.org We will not inundate you with emails--we're very aware that inboxes easily become flooded with worthy pleas as well as ads--but rarely, now and then, we will send information or a petition, focusing on bird and local issues. You will be able to contribute your voice to these issues that matter. Just send a "yes" to webmaster@wintuaudubon.org.

Thank you for enjoying the birds, and for considering this support.

Sincerely,

Dan Greaney, President

IN OTHER NEWS

Best wishes to **Harvey Carroll**, Wintu Audubon Director-at-Large and co-builder of our special-event nesting display, who will be celebrating New Year's Eve with hip replacement surgery!

Thanks to all who tried to donate on **Giving Tuesday!** A paperwork glitch aced us out this time. We expect to be back in the mix next year!

From The Sierra Club:

The movement for 100% clean energy is unstoppable.

Two days ago, Cincinnati, Ohio became the 100th U.S. city to commit to 100% clean, renewable energy for all. Last night, Dunedin, Florida became the 101st. As of today, 1 in 7 Americans -- 48.7 million people total -- now lives in a place committed to making the transition to 100% renewable energy! According to a recent poll, over 80% of the population

thinks 100% clean energy is a good idea. In addition to the 101 cities and towns, 11 counties and two states that have now committed to going all-renewable and over 200 mayors and 155 companies have made similar commitments.

Now, it's time for Redding to chart its own path to 100% clean energy -- and to make sure that equity and justice are at the heart of it's planning and implementation.

Sincerely,

Jodie Van Horn, Director Ready For 100 Sierra Club

P.S. Help us celebrate 100+ cities committed to 100% clean energy on social media now -- and tag your city, mayor, and others, to join the conversation too! #ReadyFor100



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:

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

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Red-Shouldered Hawk
• Photo: Larry Jordan

The 21st annual
Great Backyard
Bird Count

Friday, Feb. 15 - Monday, Feb 18

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS UNITE!

Spend at least 15 minutes during this annual event observing birds in your neighborhood and record your sightings at the official website birdcount.org. A fun way to help researchers at Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology gather important data on bird populations. For more information, check out birdcount.org or audubon.org.