



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

March / April 2014

March Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, March 11 @ 7:00 pm

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation We're in for a special treat! Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation will bring their education birds, tell us about the species and give us histories of the each individual. It will be a wonderful chance to see live birds up close as well as learn about the hazards that birds encounter in the wild. March is baby bird season and we'll also hear about what to do if we (or our friends who call us thinking we are "bird experts") find an orphan. Besides the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, orphaned and injured wildlife in northern California, Shasta Wildlife Rescue's mission includes education and encouragement of our community to value the connection between people and the natural environment. This is part of Wintu Audubon's mission, too – so please come and help us welcome a like-minded group...and see the birds!

Field Trips

Our Youth/Beginner Bird Walks will continue through the spring. Bring your family and friends to the Turtle Bay Monolith on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9-11 am. Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693** with questions or for more information.

General 2nd Saturday Bird Walk---March 8 @ 8:00 am

Our regular visits to Turtle Bay and Kutas Lake always showcase a great cross-section of raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines. They can be seen close up with usually a surprise or two on this ½-day walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle

Bay. This walk with **Debbie Anderson** is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome.

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Clover Creek Preserve, Thursday, March 20 @ 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. We should 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, Linda Aldrich, at the preserve near the south end of Shasta View Drive for this ½-day trip.

Clear Creek WasteWater Treatment Ponds---Saturday, March 29 @ 8 am

We are returning soon after our last January visit to look especially for migrating shorebirds. Several of these ponds often provide shallow pools and mud flats attractive to shorebirds ---a scarce habitat here in the Redding area. The walk around the ponds is on a gaveled roadway but is a couple of miles in length, so wear sturdy shoes. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 8:00 am to meet your leader **Brooke**

WINTU A.S. 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

March 11: *Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation*

April 8: Jeannette and Harvey Carroll: *A Birding Trip to Southern Brazil*

MacDonald. This is a ½-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. Metz Road is on the right.

April Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 8 @ 7:00 pm

A Birding Trip to Southern Brazil Jeannette and Harvey Carroll, long-time Audubon members as well as members of the Board, will share their Brazilian adventures. Brazil is too large to see the entire country in one trip. Many days were spent in the Pantanal where they were lucky enough to observe two Jaguar kills as well as to photograph many unusual and colorful birds. The Carrolls have treasured photos of Hyacinth Macaws as well as other Macaws and Parrots. Their guides were amazed at their lucky encounters with the huge, but elusive Harpy Eagle family. Few travelers ever see the very large female with a monkey in her talons and the chick eating on it, plus the male gracing their cameras for several hours the next day

Field Trips

2nd Saturday Bird Walk---April 12 @ 8:00 am

Now that most wintering ducks have moved on and migrating passerines are passing through, it's time once again to shift our birding to the Shasta College Campus. The oak woodlands, wastewater treatment pond, riparian, and fields support a wide variety of species. Meet in Shasta College's north parking lot for this ½ day trip that is open-to-the-public. **Connie Word** will lead.

Dye Creek Preserve Outing--- Saturday April 19

@ 7:30 am Join **Larry Jordan**, trip leader, for a hike up Dye Creek Canyon. We are scheduling a repeat of this jaunt that has proved so popular the last several years. The Nature Conservancy manages this working cattle ranch, hunt club, and ecological preserve west of Los Molinos, Tehama County. Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Canyon Wrens are a possibility. Wild flowers should be abundant. The trail is rough and a small stream crossing should provide some excitement. Bring water, a lunch, and sturdy shoes. A hiking pole could come in handy. **Please note: Because the Redding Civic Auditorium parking lot will be occupied by Kool April Nights we will rendezvous in the parking lot south of the Redding City Hall.**

Local Weekday Bird Walk---Mouth of Cottonwood Creek State Wildlife Area---

Thursday, April 24 @ 7:30 am This little-known State land borders the North side of Cottonwood Creek where it enters the Sacramento River. Broad bands of undisturbed riparian forest, valley oak and grasslands some of which have been planted with shrubs and cottonwoods characterize the area. **Frank and Darless Sanderson** will lead us in this ½-day outing. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water be aware that toilet facilities are not available. Meet at the South parking lot of the Redding Civic Auditorium to carpool. Anderson folks can catch us at the Anderson Factory Stores at 8:00 am.

Trip Reports

Youth/Beginners Bird Walks

January 11, 2014---The winter's brief and only rain thus

Please Note: Wintu Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society- sponsored activities and will not be held liable for accidents. You attend at your own risk. A responsible adult must accompany minors on all outings. Rain cancels all activities except Christmas Bird Counts.

far found Turtle Bay but did not dissuade four youth and nine adult birdwatchers. In keeping with the weather, ducks made a good showing, with a pair of Ringneck Ducks, two male Northern Pintails and a generous sprinkling of Canvasbacks among the Gadwalls, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Common Golden-eyes, and Buffleheads. The ducks had a scare when a Bald Eagle swooped low over them before giving us a close fly-by en route to his mate on their preferred conifer south of Hwy. 44. We totaled forty species, and by the end of the walk the rain had let up, allowing us to see without binoculars the flashing eyebrows of a perky Bewick's Wren.

An unsurprising note: the river's bywaters were very low, with extended mudflats that hosted Wilson's Snipe and Killdeer; almost no water in Rockpile Pond, and the river itself slow enough to attract Mallards out in the main channel.

February 8---A dozen wet-weather birders—five adults and seven youths—surprised their slightly less ducky trip leader, **Dan Greaney**, by showing up in high spirits for a rainy day bird walk at Turtle Bay. Under a sky that muted bright colors, we still tallied nine of them, ranging from the golden of the Great Egret's bill to Western Scrub-jay blue to Mallard green and several blacks, browns, and whites. Among those last, Canada Geese grazed on the mudflats where camouflaged Wilson's Snipe hid by simply being still; and the Bald Eagles both showed up, one on sentinel duty at the nest. At the end of the walk a male Spotted Towhee buzzed a spring trill to his sweetie nearby, so spring is on the way. But, rainy day birding

notwithstanding, we'll hope that February showers bring March and April showers, too.

Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area---February 1



Ten birders enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area near Gridley. Sixty-three species were seen, including an elusive Blue-winged Teal.

Nominees for Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for 2014-2015

Bea Currie, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate for the coming year at our February General Meeting. **The Committee was unable to find a willing nominee for Vice-President or Publicity.** We are especially interested in receiving nominees for these positions. In accordance with our Bylaws, the slate will be presented again with a call for additional nominees from the floor and then voted on at our April General Meeting. The approved slate will assume duties April 8. Here are the nominees:

Officers

President---Esther Cox
Vice-President---vacant
Treasurer---Connie Word
Recording Secretary---Jeannette Carroll
Corresponding Secretary---Beatrice Currie

Committee Chairs

Conservation---Janet Wall, Bruce Webb
Newsletter Editor---Bill Oliver
Education---Dan Greaney
Membership---George Horn
Programs---Linda Aldrich
Web Master---Larry Jordan
Publicity---vacant
Event Coordinator---Chad Scott
Directors-at-Large---Harvey Carroll

Note: The Board has created a new position--- The Event Coordinator. This position will work with the Board to schedule field trips and special events such as

Earth Day/Watershed Festival participation, including scheduling trip and event leaders. This is a substantial position as the chapter typically offers four events per month, September through May. The new position will help extend chapter leadership by reaching beyond the board for activity leaders. To help out with trips or events, contact our new Event Coordinator after chapter elections at the April meeting

Wintu Audubon wants you!

Volunteer opportunities/chapter needs:

Leading field trips—one or two trips a year: contact

Education—outreach to youth and adults: contact Dan Greaney at 276-9693

Website—contribution and maintenance: contact Larry at

Conservation—monitoring areas of interest for possible chapter action: contact Janet at 547-1189

Board Membership—help guide the direction of the chapter: contact Bea Currie at 243-3955

Other ideas??—The Chapter supports creative contributions. Contact any Board Member to further your ideas

2013-2014 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT—Esther Cox 474-4379
VICE-PRESIDENT—*Vacant*
TREASURER—Connie Word 245-0846
RECORDING SECRETARY—Shelley Cerasaro 242-8888
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY--Beatrice Currie 243-3955

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PROGRAMS--Linda Aldrich 223-5341
EDUCATION—Dan Greaney 276-9693 and Don Goodykoontz 474-1655
CONSERVATION-- Janet Wall 547-1189 and Bruce Webb 275-2076
NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131
MEMBERSHIP—George Horn 244-0581
PUBLICITY---*vacant*

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, Jeanette and Harvey Carroll

Whole Earth and Watershed Festival

Saturday, April 26 at Redding City Hall

The festival is a community-wide event bringing together a variety of activities all celebrating social, economic, and environmental solutions for ourselves and our planet while enhancing the health and livability of our region. We have found our booth to be very popular with attendees and are looking for volunteers to staff it. If interested call **Bea Currie** at 243-3955.



**WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
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REDDING, CA 96099-4533**

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January/February 2014

**The Winter Wings Festival, Klamath Falls, Oregon, February 13-16
Report by Larry Jordan**

The festival, produced by The Klamath Basin Audubon Society was awesome! I was able to chat with Bill Thompson III of Birdwatcher's Digest fame who, by the way, gave a most interesting and entertaining keynote presentation on the "Perils and Pitfalls of Birding."

Even though the weather at the event didn't always cooperate, everyone had a good time, especially the photographers in the crowd. One of the events I participated in was the "Extreme Raptor Photo Shoot" which was presented by the High Desert Museum (<http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/>) out of Bend Oregon. They conducted a free flying raptor photo shoot that included a Turkey Vulture, Barn Owl, Harris's Hawk, Northern Goshawk and a Peregrine Falcon!



Many people go to the Winter Wings Festival to see Bald Eagles, and there are plenty of them to observe. According to one of the residents in the area, this leucistic Bald Eagle has been spending a few months in the Klamath Falls area for the past four winters! I searched him/her out and got some good photos of, in my humble opinion, a gorgeous raptor.

The festival also included several birding events with groups of birders including an owl prow, "Big Day" birding contests and "Laid Back Birding" for the more serene crowd.