



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 2016

March Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 @ 7:00 pm

Waterfowl Identification. Michael Carion is a retired Chief of Enforcement for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mike has had a life-long passion for waterfowl and has taught waterfowl identification and enforcement techniques to California Game Wardens for over 25 years. Come learn basic techniques to help identify the waterfowl found throughout California. His PowerPoint presentation will start with basics and then focus on field identification marks to help identify the numerous species of waterfowl found throughout California.

Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay--March 5 @ 9:00am

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.**

General 2nd Saturday Bird Walk--John Reginato River Access Trail--March 12 @ 8:00 am

This trail leaves the parking lot of the John Reginato Boat Launch on the west side of the Sacramento River off South Bonnyview Road. Good views of the Sacramento River are afforded on this short trail as it traverses a mixed riparian woodland. We should see a variety of winter resident passerines and waterfowl and possibly a few recently arrived summer residents. Meet our leader, **Chad Scott**, at the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium. This ½-day walk is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome.

Local Weekday Bird Walk--Oregon Gulch--Thursday, March 17@

8:00 am Oregon Gulch consists of 385 acres supporting a mix of chaparral, blue oak, gray pine/oak woodland and an intermittent stream. This property was originally destined for a city landfill. When the landfill site was changed to the Igo area the City of Redding tried to sell the land to a developer. Wintu Audubon together with other local conservation organizations successfully appealed to the City to save Oregon Gulch as open space.

Come explore the area with **George Horn** in all its spring glory. We should find some early spring migrants and enjoy spring wildflowers. We will car pool from the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium. Do not drive individually to Oregon Gulch as parking is very limited and the road is rough. Wear sturdy shoes to traverse the stony trails.

Black Butte Lake and Western Tehama County--Saturday--March 26 @ 8:00 am

This reservoir in western Tehama County dams up Stony Creek. Deep open water attracts grebes and diving ducks. The rocks on the dam overlook support resident Rock Wrens. The drive through the ranch lands in western Tehama County has produced Golden Eagles, Long-billed Curlews and, sometimes, early migrant Swainson's Hawks. We will rendezvous with the leader, **Bill Oliver**, in the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium. Bring lunch and water. We should return by late afternoon.

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 8: Michael Carion:
Waterfowl Identification.

April 12: Steven T. Callan:
The Game Warden's Son.

April Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 12 @ 7:00 pm

The Game Warden's Son. Steven T. Callan. This award-winning author and retired game warden's love of nature and passion for protecting wildlife took root long before he experienced the adventures described in his memoir, *Badges, Bears, and Eagles*. In *The Game Warden's Son*, he recounts more of his own investigations, along with those of his game warden father and their colleagues. Intertwined with a half century of adventures and investigations is a story of the lifelong relationship between a boy and his father.

Steve Callan grew up in Orland, with an insatiable interest in wildlife, particularly waterfowl. Steve went on to graduate from CSU, Chico, and CSU, Sacramento. Hired by the California Department of Fish and Game in 1974, he spent most of his thirty-year enforcement career in Shasta County. Callan has earned numerous awards for his work in wildlife protection and is the recipient of the 2014 and 2015 "Best Outdoor Magazine Column" awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of California. Avid bird-watchers and members of National Audubon, Steve and his wife, Kathy, live in the Redding area.

Join us as this local award-winning author shares his passion for protecting wildlife and gives us a preview of his newly released book. Steve can be found online at steventcallan.com

Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay--Saturday, April 2 @ 9:00am April is especially birdy at Turtle Bay with the arrival of summer residents and migrants passing through to their breeding grounds. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information

General 2nd Saturday Bird Walk--Shasta College--April 9 @ 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. **Alicia** and **Pablo Herrera** will lead.

Local Weekday Bird Walk--Battle Creek State Wildlife Area--Thursday, April 21 @ 8 am

A wide variety of habitats characterize this wildlife area east of Cottonwood including riparian along the creek, shallow ponds and open fields. The creek's salmon runs attract Bald Eagles, often in good numbers in fall and winter. The ponds may contain Wood Ducks, Common Gallinules and other waterfowl. On a previous field trip,

birders were startled when a Wild Turkey exploded in flight from tall weeds in an open field. Rare but possible sightings include Phainopepla and California Thrasher. The usual oak woodland species are sure to be seen. Join leader **Linda Aldrich** at the Battle Creek State Wildlife Area parking lot, reached by taking Hwy 273 to the Outlets Mall exit, then following signs for Coleman Fish Hatchery. The parking lot is on the right before you reach the fish hatchery.

Trip Reports

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

January 2nd was chilly and cloudy, not what we would normally consider good raptor weather. But perhaps the wind stirred them up for three birders. A 3rd-year Bald Eagle stood sentry at the site of the new nest fragments, at the bench area some 100 yards below the Sundial Bridge. Perhaps 25 yards away a juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched in easy view. A Cooper's Hawk, the resident dark-phase red-tail, two Red-shouldered Hawks, and a handful of Turkey Vultures rounded out our raptor viewing. More predictably, the waterfowl also showed well: numerous Buffleheads, American Coots, and Common Golden-eyes, along with Mallards, American Wigeon, Ring-neck Ducks, Barrow's Golden-eyes, a Canvasback, Pied-billed Grebes, a mob of Ring-billed Gulls and a few Herring Gulls and plenty of shoreline waders.

We also spotted an anti-bird device—a feral cat feeding station above the pond near the Turtle Bay store. There were sparrows, towhees, American Goldfinches, Hermit Thrushes, Western Scrub-jays, Oak Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, and at least two cats in the area. We will have to take issue with this development.

February 6--Thirteen enthusiasts enjoyed a beautiful Youth-Beginner Birdwalk at the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary. The two youngsters on the walk were able and ready, and one repeatedly commented on *how much we had already seen!* Forty-two species showed, including a handful of wintering tree swallows. A couple visiting from Riverside enjoyed life-list views of Barrow's Golden-eyes, and were headed next to Kutras to find another lifer, the Yellow-billed Magpie.

January 21-- Mary Lake and Environs

Six birders met at recently re-watered Mary Lake under gray skies, and mild temperatures but no rain. **Linda Aldrich**, trip leader stated that the "Best" bird species were Wrentit (identified by ear), Fox Sparrow and Hermit Thrush. After much discussion, we decided that a distant raptor was a Cooper's Hawk. Among the several Nuttall's Woodpeckers that we saw was an individual with brown feathers instead of the black typical of the species and we speculated that it was a "dilute" variant since it wasn't light colored enough to be leucistic. We hoped to see Western

Bluebirds, but they weren't spotted during the "official" trip; however, one of us saw a flock of them in the neighborhood close by giving us a trip total of 45 species. Good winter birding was had by all!

January 30—Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

A dozen dedicated birders enjoyed a pleasant tour of the Refuge between storms. We first visited the cemetery in the village of Maxwell now famous for it's winter resident Vermillion Flycatcher. Sure enough there it was perched on the gravestones providing excellent views of this spectacular vagrant from the Mexican border. At the Refuge we tallied 64 species. The most unusual species was a Eurasian Green-winged or Common Teal.

February 18--Clear Creek WasteWater Treatment Plant

Seven Birders braved the cool wind and possible wet weather (which thankfully didn't happen) and identified 49 species according to trip leaders **Jeannette and Harvey Carroll**. Few shorebirds were found-only a couple of Long-billed Dowitchers and Spotted Sandpipers. Most memorable sighting was the ability to examine the plumage differences between Common and Barrow's Golden-eyes.

Report of the Education Committee

Dan Greaney's committee had a busy January. On the 22nd they met with Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control to discussed what birds might be nesting in or near their work areas and the Integrated Pest Management tools that they use. The presentation was illustrated by photos supplied by Larry Jordan.

The next week they met with the Whiskeytown Environmental School staff to present both bird information and ideas on teaching birds to youth.

Also, with direct contact and our BirdWords article in the *Record-Searchlight*, they began a conversation with the City and Turtle Bay about the presence and feeding of feral cats. This discussion is ongoing and deserves a strong resolution, as our local cats participate in killing 2.4 billion birds a year in the US.



2015-2016 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT**—Chad Scott 619-852-4555
- VICE-PRESIDENT**— Linda Aldrich 223-5341
- TREASURER**—Connie Word 245-0846
- 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, and Catherine Camp 337-6874
- NEWSLETTER**--Bill Oliver 941-7741
- WEBMASTER**--Larry Jordan 472-3131
- MEMBERSHIP**—George Horn 244-0581
- PUBLICITY**---Larry Jordan 472-3131
- FINANCE**---Beth Brockman 227-4228
- EVENT COORDINATOR**---Chad Scott 619-852-4555

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE Harvey Carroll, Catherine Camp, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

**Whole Earth and Watershed Festival
Saturday, April 23 at Redding City Hall and
Sculpture Park, 11am to 5pm**

The festival focuses on healthy living, building vibrant communities, and restoring a healthy planet. Wintu Audubon needs volunteers to setup and staff a booth. If you can help, please contact Bea Currie Ph: 243-3955

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and Directors-at-Large for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Members will vote to accept this slate and any volunteers from the floor at the March General Meeting.

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- MEMBERSHIP**—George Horn
- PUBLICITY/TECHNOLOGY**---Larry Jordan
- FINANCE**---Catherine Camp
- EVENT COORDINATOR**---Chad Scott
- FIELD TRIPS**--OPEN

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE Esther Cox, Harvey Carroll, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell, Carol Evans, Connie Word

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

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March /April 2016



Birds and Climate Change Summit/Workshop - April 16, 2016

In collaboration with Audubon California, chapter leaders of the Northern California Council are invited to attend the 2016 Birds & Climate Change Summit in Redding on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 10am to 3pm.

Climate change is the greatest threat to North American birds with over half of North American species (including 170 CA species) threatening to lose 50% or more of their current range by the end of the century. Despite scientific consensus around the issue of climate change and its cause and the mounting evidence of its current and future impacts, climate change continues to be a sensitive subject to many people. Yet, this should not keep us from dealing with such a critical issue at such a critical time.

This Climate Change Summit is a workshop that will help chapter leaders present climate change issues to members of their local communities in ways that encourage collaboration rather than confrontation. We will discuss Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report and practice connecting people's passion for birds with climate change action. Following the workshop, attendees will be better prepared to incorporate climate changes issues in the activities and outreach programs of their respective chapters.