



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 2017

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay
Saturday, Mar 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. *We
assemble at the Venture Properties parking
lot. Take the first left before the Redding
Civic Auditorium.*



2nd Saturday Bird Walk
Lema Ranch, Mar 11 @ 8 am Lema
Ranch (home to the McConnell Foundation
Headquarters) offers various habitats:
Cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open
fields and oak woodlands. These varied habi-
tats provide good birding in all seasons.
During our last early spring visit we saw 49
species in addition to the local specialties:
Common Gallinule, Great-tailed Grackle,
Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird. Meet
trip leader **Sally NeSmith**, at 8:00 am in the
parking lot – Hemingway Road off of Shasta
View. Questions: 831-535-2888.



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Mar 14 @ 7:00 pm
Terri Lhuillier, locally-known “Eagle
Enthusiast” will pick up on the continuing
saga of our famous Redding Eagles. Terri
will update us with the story of an intruder
eagle nicknamed "Newbie" who came to town
in March of 2013 and disrupted Patriot &
Liberty's 7th nesting season. This will lead
us into the story of the arrival of Liberty's
current mate, Spirit, in 2013, and the begin-
ning of their courtship through their first 3
nesting seasons together. Liberty has now
raised and survived all 18 eaglets from egg to
fledgling, 13 with her first mate Patriot, and
5 with her current mate, Spirit. Come enjoy
Terri's love of Eagles and enthusiasm in her
13th year of observing these magnificent
locally famous birds.

**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. (Except
April's meeting.)

**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

March 14: Terri Lhuillier,
Local “Eagle Enthusiast”
will share photos and
stories of our resident
Redding Eagles.

Thursday, April 13 @ 7 pm
Note day & place change!

There will be a special
presentation of “Breaking
Point” a film about the
shrinking Salton Sea to be
held at Lema Ranch. (See
last page for registration &
directions.)

Local Mid-Week Bird Walk Battle Creek State Wildlife Area

Thursday, Mar 23 @ 8:00 am The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has restored riparian habitat and maintains trails along Battle Creek including a connecting trail through an extensive marsh to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. 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. **Linda Aldrich** will lead. We meet 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.

Wildways at Oregon Gulch Saturday, Mar 25 @ 10 am

The **Shasta Land Trust** is having a fundraising Wildways event on March 25 at Oregon Gulch 10 am. **Kim Niemer** will be there to talk about Open Space in Redding. **Dave Ledger** of the California Native Plant Society will be leading a plant walk and Wintu Audubon will provide birding along with David's walk; half the group will look up, the rest down. There will be a lunch at the end. Contact Shasta Land Trust at 241-7886. To carpool, meet at Kutras Park at 9:45.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

Saturday, Apr 1 @ 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. *Meet at the Venture Properties parking lot, the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*

2nd Saturday Bird Walk

Millville Plains, Apr 8 @ 8:00 am This driving tour of the oak woodlands along the base of the foothills of the Southern Cascades begins on the Millville Plains and continues on the Parkville Road. High points are the Plains and Parkville Cemetery. Enjoy a morning of birding and wildflowering! Merlins, Prairie Falcons, Pheasant, and early migrants will be our quarry, as well as a plethora of spring flowers. Bring a lunch and drinking water. We will return by mid-afternoon. Meet the leader, **Bill Oliver** at the Kutras Parking Area for carpooling.



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Apr 13 @ 7:00 pm at the McConnell Headquarters at Lema Ranch **Desiree Loggins**, Chapter Manager for Audubon California, will present the award-winning documentary film “**Breaking Point**”, the story of the shrinking Salton Sea & its effects on the migratory bird populations. The **Salton Sea** is one of the critical habitats for millions of birds along the Pacific Flyway and is one of the most imperiled. More than 300 bird species rely on Salton Sea's deep waters, shorelines, mudflats and wetlands. As the sea size decreases, many species have already been negatively

impacted. It is expected that the Salton Sea will shrink by 60% in the coming years.

There is a path toward successful bird and habitat conservation. This event is open to the public and is free. Registration is necessary. See last page.

Local Weekday Bird Walk

Cottonwood Creek State Wildlife Area Thursday, Apr 20 @ 7:30 am This little-known State land borders the North side of Cottonwood Creek where it enters the Sacramento River. Marshes, small ponds, broad bands of undisturbed riparian forest, valley oak and grasslands some of which have been planted with shrubs and cottonwoods characterize the area. **Bill Oliver** will lead us in this ½-day outing. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water be aware that toilet facilities are not available. Meet 7:30 at the Kutras Parking Area to carpool. Anderson folks can catch us at the Anderson Outlet Stores at 8:00 am.

2017 Earth Day & Watershed Festival

Apr 22 @ 11 am – 5 pm Wintu Audubon will be present at this all-day event celebrating the earth and sustainable living at Redding City Hall & Sculpture Garden. It is a free event with lots of activities for everyone. If you would be able to help with staffing our booth, please contact **Bea Currie** at 243-3955. For further information about the Festival, check their website: wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org/



Photo: Larry Jordan

Godwit Days – 22nd Annual Festival

April 19–25, 2017

Humboldt County

Come celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and wildlife through the

selection of field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local

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

guides during our annual week-long festival. The festival provides a perfect opportunity to see tens of thousands of shorebirds in migration, the occasional rarity, pelagic birds, visit Spotted Owls in the Redwoods, learn bird calls, photograph birds at all elevations, view children's artwork, learn from renowned keynote presenters and numerous government and non-profit organizations. See 100+ birds on the Big Day trip and add to your life list. Check out the Godwit Days website: godwitdays.org/ or (707) 826-7050

CNPS Garden tour, April 29, 2017

The Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has scheduled their biennial garden tour for April 29, 2017 and Wintu Audubon will be there! We'll have an information table at one of the five gardens on the

self-guided tour. These beautiful gardens feature the use of native plants in the landscape. Many of the attendees also appreciate the birds that native plants attract and will be eager for the literature we'll be giving away and to have their bird questions answered. If you would like to assist at our table, please e-mail **Linda Aldrich** at lindaaldrich@earthlink.net or call 223-5341. We hope to have two shifts, so that table workers can also attend the tour. For more information about the tour itself, contact **Donal Jonio**, Native Plant Garden Tour Chair at dforca@charter.net.

Trip Reports

Second Saturday Walk – Mary Lake

Jan 14, 2017 **Bill Oliver** led seven birders around Mary Lake and the adjacent Catholic Cemetery on a cold but clear morning. We found that most birds are late risers on cold mornings; sparrows were noticeably absent until mid-morning and nearly all passerines were found on sunny south-facing slopes. Unfortunately the Eurasian Wigeon present two days before was absent but we did enjoyed 35 of the “usual suspects”.

Mid-week Walk – Clover Creek Preserve

Jan 19, 2017 Three intrepid birders met in chilly, intermittently rainy weather at the scheduled area, Cascade Park, access to which was severely limited by flooding. At the suggestion of trip leader **Linda Aldrich**, Clover Creek Preserve was substituted and she, John Coon and Connie Word caravanned over there. Our first bird was a White-tailed Kite, preening in a tall dead tree and later flying, hovering and hunting over the preserve. There were a number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, two of whom scolded and flashed their ruby crowns. A male American Kestrel flew from perch to perch ahead of us for a while. Other “good” birds were Western Meadowlark, American Pipit and Western Bluebird. Our final treat was a “v” of Tundra Swans flying overhead. In all we saw 33 species.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Jan 28, 2017 Fourteen birders migrated south to the Sacramento NWR lead by **Mike Carion**. It was a beautiful day with mild temperatures and only slight winds. We were immediately greeted by of two Peregrine Falcons! It was the start of a great day.

We made a quick stop at the bird feeders to see a variety of local sparrows and finches and a Kingfisher as we prepared for the 6-mile auto tour. We were lucky to have recorded 72 species of birds on the auto tour loop! Most numerous birds on the trip were the thousands of Snow and Ross's Geese. Their numbers were followed by large numbers of Northern Shoveler and Gadwall. We saw about 100 Cackling Canada Geese and numerous White-fronted Geese.

Most notable of the bird sightings was a trio of Bald Eagles hunting a duck in the distance. We watched as one eagle picked a duck up and dropped it into the water where the other two were soaring and waiting for it to come to the surface. It was quite spectacular! We saw a few of the following species: Great Horned Owl, Eared Grebe, Avocet, Wilson's Snipe, Virginia Rail, and a Downy Woodpecker! Overall, it was a fun and bird filled trip, topped off by the uprising of thousands of Snow and Ross's geese (including a few blue phase snows!).



Photo: Mike Carion

Youth/Beginner Walk Feb 4, 2017

A few raindrops, and then a few more, didn't stop six ready birders from exploring the Turtle Bay ponds, but the weather did seem to affect what birds were out. Diving ducks showed up – Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Ruddies, Ring-necks, and one Golden-eye – but no dabbling ducks were on the rain-muddied water. A few Coots paddled about, one pair of geese splashed down, and three Mallards circled overhead and moved on. On shore Black Phoebes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets put on fly-catching shows. Golden-crowned Sparrows led the ground scratchers. A few Scrub Jays and a Flicker added some color to the gray morning. The only raptors seen were two Turkey Vultures. One made a half-hearted attempt at soaring, but then returned to his companion where they huddled with the grumpy patience of, well, vultures, I guess.

WINTU BUSINESS

March 14 Bird Club Meeting. *All members in good standing will be able to vote on the following amendment to the Wintu Society by-laws.*

Proposed amendment to chapter bylaws, Article III, Section 2

Current: No one individual on the Board of Directors shall serve in the same capacity more than seven consecutive years.

Proposed: No one individual on the Board of Directors shall serve in the same capacity more than seven consecutive years unless the Board makes a specific exemption to this section.

The Board appreciates and strives for new faces among the directors, but also recognizes the reality of working with volunteers. The current case is that Linda Aldrich is willing to continue as Program Chair, but she has served in that capacity for seven

years. We are happy with her service, and nobody else is clamoring to take the position. This amendment allows the chapter to retain Linda's services.

Slate of Nominees for Fiscal Year

2017-2018 The Nominating Committee announced this slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and Directors-At-Large at our General Meeting in February and solicited nominees from the floor. At our March General Meeting the slate will be voted on after again soliciting nominees from the floor.

Slate of Nominees

President – Dan Greaney

Vice President – Chad Scott

Treasurer – Beth Brockman

Recording Secretary – Catherine Camp

Corresponding Secretary – Jeannette Carroll, Bea Currie (Assisting)

Program Chairman – Linda Aldrich, Janice Hunter (Assisting)

Education – Roberta Winchell

Conservation – Janet Wall, Bruce Webb

Newsletter – Sally Nesmith, Bill Oliver

Webmaster/Publicity – Larry Jordan

Membership – George Horn, Janice Hunter

Field Trip Chairman – Mike Carion

Finance – Catherine Camp, Connie Word

Directors-At-Large – Harvey Carroll, Esther Cox, Bea Currie, John Winchell



Want to be a Member?
Keep current of upcoming
events & birding information.

Visit our website

www.wintuadubon.org

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

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March / April 2017



Wintu Audubon Society presents
a Screening of the Award-Winning Documentary



**BREAKING POINT - The story of the
disappearing Salton Sea & its effects
on migratory birds**



**Thursday, April 13, 2017 @ 7 pm
McConnell Foundation Headquarters
Lema Ranch - 800 Shasta View Dr. Redding**

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • LIMITED SEATING • REGISTRATION NECESSARY

To register
please call Linda Aldrich at 223-5341
or Email: webmaster@wintuaudubon.org
or Get your FREE eTicket on our website at:
www.wintuaudubon.org/product/breaking-point-screening/