



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 2018

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay
Saturday, Mar 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 pro-
vide binoculars and field guides. Call **Rob-
erta Winchell** at **945-8342**, for more infor-
mation. *We will meet at the Monolith parking
lot next to the new Sheraton Hotel at Turtle
Bay.*

**Second Saturday Bird Walk at
Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment
Plant, Saturday, Mar 10 @ 8:00 am** It's
been very dry this winter so early shore birds
could be scarce. If we're lucky, we may get
some rain before this trip. Even so, this is a
fun walk with riparian and open river habi-
tat, in addition to the ponds. Possible species
include American Pipit and Greater Yellow-
legs. Blue-winged Teal have been seen in the
past.

We will meet at the end of Metz Road at
8:00 a.m. **George Horn** will lead. Phone **524-
7484**. Directions to the plant are: Take Hwy.
273 South, look for River Ranch Road after
crossing Clear Creek. Cross over the railroad
tracks and turn left on Eastside Road, the
entrance to Metz Road is on the right. Please
try to be prompt. There are release of liabil-
ity forms to be signed and there is a locked
gate. Hope to see you there!



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Mar 13 @ 7:00 pm
“Duckumentary” Ducks are born survi-
vors: they need little instruction on how to
swim, what to eat, and how to navigate
predators. They come in all shapes, sizes,
and colors. Some enjoy the calm waters of
lakes while others thrive on the adrenaline
of whitewater currents. There are over 120
species of duck and each has its own unique
personality.

Come join us for a **“Duckumentary”** to
see how North American Wood Ducks hatch
their young high in tree tops and meet a fos-
ter family of Redhead ducks. You will even

**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, Mar 13 @ 7:00 pm
“Duckumentary” Watch the
story of how some favorite
ducks nest and care for
their young.

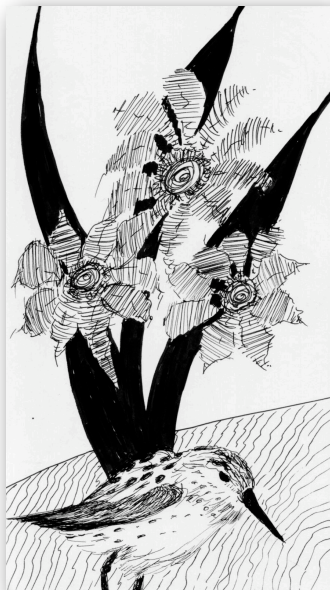
Tuesday, Apr 10 @ 7 pm
Africa Birds and Wildlife
**Harvey and Jeannette
Carroll** share their stories
and photographs from their
several trips to Africa. They
will also share the photo-
graphy of **Mike and Nicole
Carion** from their recent
trip to Africa.



get to travel north with some Goldeneyes for winter. You will be surprised by just how much you learn about these charming, feathered friends.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Anderson River Park, Thursday, Mar 15 @ 8:00 am This gem of a riparian habitat has many groomed trails where we should see spring migrants. Wood Ducks and Belted Kingfishers are regularly seen on or near the river and California Thrasher and House Wren are a treat in the woodlands. Yellow-billed Magpies are noisy residents and Bald Eagles nest down river. **Brooke McDonald**, bmm11@humboldt.edu, will lead the tour. Meet her at the amphitheater in the park.

Millville Plains, Parkville Roads and Vicinity, Saturday, Mar 24 @ 8:00 am Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Bluebird and Horned Lark are a few of the usual species seen on this trip. Many raptors are possible, including Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, and recently seen on Millville Plains – a Burrowing Owl. We will watch for early migrants, including a Western Kingbird. Meet our leader, **Larry Jordan**, at the Kutras Lake Parking area. For more information call **Larry @ 949-5266**



Shorebird-ish / Sally NeSmith

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay Saturday, Apr 7 @ 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. *We will meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the new Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.*

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Ponds – April 14 @ 8:00 am Our target for this visit to the ponds will again be migratory shore birds and passerines, and we hope that shallow ponds and muddy shorelines will still be available for shorebirds. Northern Orioles and Western Kingbirds are a near certainty. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 8:00 am to meet your leader, **Matt Gould**, gouldsy@gmail.com. This is a ½-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good.

Directions to the plant are: Take Hwy. 273 South, look for River Ranch Road after crossing Clear Creek. Cross over the railroad tracks and turn left on Eastside Road, the entrance to Metz Road is on the right.



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Apr 10 @ 7 pm

Africa Birds & Wildlife

Harvey and Jeannette Carroll have made four different trips to Africa and have enjoyed seeing a great number and variety of African birds. Come learn about the wildlife and the amazing African people as well. The Carrolls will present the program with photographs taken by **Mike and Nicole Carion** from their trips to Africa.

2018 Earth Day & Watershed Festival, Saturday, Apr 21 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm Wintu Audubon will staff a table at this all-day event celebrating the earth and sustainable living at Redding City Hall and Sculpture Garden. It is a free event with lots of activities for everyone. If you are available to help with staffing our table, please contact **Bea Currie at 243-3955**. For further information, check the Earth Day website: www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org.

Churn Creek Open Space Bird Walk Saturday, Apr 28 @ 8:00 am A trip to Churn Creek Open Space just west of Lema Ranch. Partially paved trails wind their way through 180 acres of blue oak woodland and open grassland meadow. Sections of the trail meander by Churn Creek itself where this primarily urban stream is still preserved in its more natural state with lush willows, valley oaks, and cottonwoods. The McConnell Foundation owns and manages this property and have utilized cattle for the past four years to help control weed populations, reduce the risk of fire hazard, and maintain native plants and associated wildlife communities. Our co-leaders, Alicia and Pablo Herrera, will take us on a 3-mile loop hike where we'll encounter common oak woodland and riparian nesting species including Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, among others. We will meet at 8am at Minder Park, in the cul-de-sac at the end of Minder Dr., just to the south of the open space trails. Check www.wintuaudubon.org for details.

TRIP REPORTS

Youth/Beginner Walk, Jan 6 Three birders began the new year right with the Youth/Beginner Walk at Turtle Bay. Thirty-six species showed themselves. On the auditorium lawn a gaggle of White-fronted Geese grazed

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
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

with Canada honkers, and a few Red-winged Blackbirds joined the Brewers feeding among the geese. A Crow found a spot near their perimeter to bury a plump acorn. The inland ponds were low, presenting only a few woodland birds – Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, a lone Northern Flicker, and a small scatter or two of sparrows. The open water continued this year's pattern of low numbers, but still seven duck species including six Canvasbacks, some forty Golden-eyes, and over twice as many Buffleheads showed up

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 events & birding information.
 Visit our website
wintuaudubon.org



among the Coots that speckled the bay like sprinkles on a dieter's Christmas cookie. The eagle watchers reported that the established pair is working on both their Turtle Bay and golf course nests. No matter which one they choose, the Red-tail Hawk that stopped at the TB nest is likely to be out of luck there. ~**Dan Greaney**

Second Saturday Walk, Jan 13

Battle Creek State Wildlife Area On a clear and warm (for mid-January) day, eight birders walked the trail along Battle Creek to the marsh near the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Thirty-eight species were seen or heard. Memorable were an American Bittern seen flying by a few, and Virginia Rails and Soras heard by all. ~**Bill Oliver**

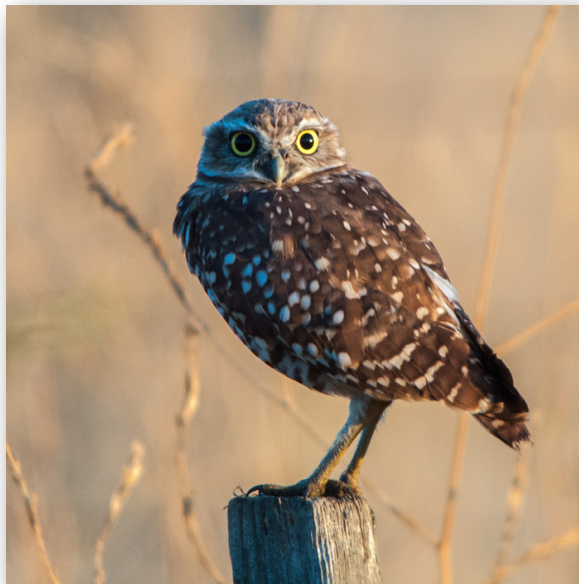
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Jan 27 Sixteen fun-loving birders participated in the Wintu Audubon outing to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, observing a total of 65 species. Even though the impoundments on the refuge did not offer the huge numbers of waterfowl that have been present in past years, there were thousands



Cooper's Hawk / Larry Jordan

of ducks and geese, many wading birds and, of course, numerous raptors, including several Bald Eagles, a Peregrine Falcon and two Prairie Falcons! Besides getting great looks at a nearby Peregrine Falcon, everyone got to observe a Cooper's Hawk from about twenty feet away right on the auto tour loop.

~**Larry Jordan**



Burrowing Owl / Larry Jordan

Owl Nest Box Replacement

On Saturday, Feb 10th, a group of six bird lovers helped replace eight older Burrowing Owl nest boxes. The original eight artificial burrows were placed at Tuscan Preserve in February of 2010, when only one owl was seen peering out from the natural cave at the preserve. Two owls – but no offspring – were observed at the preserve in the spring of 2011, but no offspring were seen until the summer of 2015 when six young were spotted on the property. The Tuscan Preserve Burrowing Owls have produced at least four offspring every year since. We hope the addition of another 16 artificial burrows, created with the help of several volunteers in 2016 and 2017, will eventually lead to the existence of a permanent, stable colony at this location.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Clover Creek, Feb 10 Ten birders, two of whom were visiting from Iowa, assembled in the parking lot of the Preserve. The day started beautiful and sunny with a slight breeze at the start, but a forecast of winds up to 30mph by 10am proved to be on the money. The number of waterfowl seemed to be low, but I've noticed that in many areas this year. A nice variety of grassland species showed themselves; Northern Harrier, Western Meadowlark, American Pipit, Western Bluebird and two Say's Phoebe. The best bird sightings of the day were a distant flyover of a young Bald Eagle and nice scope looks of a perched Peregrine Falcon. All in all a decent

day, considering the high winds that eventually caught up with us. 39 species were seen. ~**Michele Swartout**

Mid-Week Field trip to Lema Ranch, Feb 15 Four birders braved the chilly winds for a morning at Lema Ranch. Probably the "best" birds were a Cooper's Hawk winging by overhead, a quartet of Snow Geese grazing among the Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese and an indignant Marsh Wren that scolded before diving into the cattails. We were surprised to see a couple of Tree Swallows this early in the season. We saw and/or heard 40 species. ~**Linda Aldrich**

NEWSWORTHY EVENT

Osprey Platform Install

A concern about the Osprey nest resting on the soccer field lights at the main entrance to Anderson River Park prompted Karen Scheuermann of Tehama Wild Care to contact Wintu Audubon for our help in getting a nesting platform installed on the top of that utility pole. We contacted the City of Anderson, which gave us the OK to proceed. With financial support from Tehama Wild Care and cooperation from Anderson's public works staff, on Thursday, February 1st, a nesting platform built by Larry Jordan of Wintu Audubon was installed. The nest was moved to the new platform, hopefully solving the problem and giving the Osprey a permanent nesting site.



Osprey / Larry Jordan @ The Birder's Report

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

CHIRP-N-CHATTER

March / April 2018



Saturday, April 21 • 11–5
Redding City Hall & Sculpture Park

Celebrate healthy living, healthy communities & a healthy planet!

Join Wintu Audubon & over 160 Exhibitors, including businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and educational organizations, artists, and innovators.

The Festival offers an amazing opportunity to learn, network, and celebrate the best of the North State's natural resources and beauty.

www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org