



# 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

May / June 2017

## MAY ACTIVITIES

### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, May 6 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/ beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month. 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.



### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 9 @ 7:00 pm** Wintu Audubon Society members **Bob Shive** and **Janice Hunter** will present a slide show on the birds and wildlife they saw on their recent trip to Costa Rica. The trip went from the Caribbean coast in the rain forest of Tortuguero National Park to Sarapiquí in the more central area of Chilamate Valley, then on to the dry forest on the Pacific coast.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bird Walk

**McCumber Lake, May 13 @ 8 am** Meet trip leader **Chad Scott, 619-852-4555** at the Kutras Park meeting place to carpool or meet at the lake at 8:45. From Redding, go east on Hwy 44 seven miles past Shingletown to Lake McCumber Road. Drive 2 mi to the reservoir and campground. This beautiful gem is part of PG&E electrical system.

Expect to find Stellar Jays, Osprey, several species of warblers, and Vireos.



**Baby Bird Identification Workshop, Saturday, May 13, 10:30 – 2:30** Shasta Wildlife Rehabilitation is hosting **Linda Tuttle-Adams** in a Baby Bird ID workshop at the Redding Library. This is a free event with limited seating so an RSVP is required. Reserve your seat by contacting Kim Baxter at [kimbaxter@hughes.net](mailto:kimbaxter@hughes.net).

**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. No meeting in July & August.

**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, May 9: @ 7:00 pm** Wintu Audubon members **Bob Shive** and **Janice Hunter** will present a slide show on the birds and wildlife of Costa Rica.

**Tuesday, June 13 @ 5 pm Picnic** at Tower House Historical area. This is a bring your own picnic and a bird walk will follow.

### Local Mid-Week Bird Walk Battle Creek Wildlife Area

**Thursday, May 18 @ 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 a marsh to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Eagles and other raptors, marsh dwellers and passerines are usually seen. 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. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are brushed but gophers have made the ground uneven. **Mike Carion**, 227-3231 will lead.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES

### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, June 3 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month. 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.*



### GENERAL MEETING

#### Annual Picnic – Tuesday, June 13 @ 6

**pm** The last general meeting before our summer meeting hiatus will be a bring-your-own picnic at the Camden House (Tower House) at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. We will enjoy good birding and fellowship in this lovely setting. On previous outings we have seen Laurence's Goldfinch and Indigo Bunting. The parking lot for the Camden House is on the left side of Hwy. 299W just before the turnoff to French Gulch. Some members may wish to carpool or ride with others who have a seasonal or permanent pass for Whiskeytown by assem-

bling in the parking lot of Tops Market on Eureka Way in Redding at 6:00 pm.

**Join Audubon California's Advocacy Day at the Capitol June 8<sup>th</sup>** Birds can't lobby for the protections they need to thrive in California, but we certainly can. Registration is now open for **Audubon California's Annual Advocacy Day** which will be held at the Capitol building in Sacramento. Our focus this year will be on ensuring that California remains at the forefront in fighting and adapting to climate change. Attendees will also have a chance to speak with representatives from their districts. Please RSVP through our website, <http://ca.audubon.org/> or by contacting Desiree Loggins at [dloggins@audubon.org](mailto:dloggins@audubon.org)

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES

### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, July 1 & August 5 @ 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. **Roberta Winchell**, 945-8342 will lead. *We assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*

### Camp-out at Lassen Volcanic National Park, Friday – Sunday, July 28 –30

We have enjoyed the birding and camping at the Lost Creek Group Campground over the



Mount Lassen & Manzanita Lake  
Photo: Sally NeSmith

years, so we are scheduling this event again this year in conjunction with the Altacal Audubon. Group Camp sites #2 & 3 have been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29. We are again inviting the Redwood Region Audubon Society to join us. Folks can either camp at Lost Creek or drive up for either or both Saturday and Sunday. Campers can arrive at the campsite at a time of their choosing on Friday afternoon. Saturday day trippers should meet at the Kutra's Park meeting place at 8:00 am Saturday morning to car pool. We will bird Manzanita Lake and vicinity on Saturday morning. The rest of the itinerary is open and will depend on the interests of the participants. Day trippers for Sunday, July 30, will meet at the campsite at 9:00 am. Lost Creek has primitive facilities; pit toilets and no electricity. Potable water is available. Contact **Bill Oliver**, 941-7741 or email [wwoliver9@gmail.com](mailto:wwoliver9@gmail.com) for other particulars.

## Trip Reports

**Youth/Beginner Walk. March 4** Twenty-four species were observed in the rain on the Turtle Bay loop. A seventh grader and his mom found a few American Coots and many Mallards, all of them paired, swimming over what is normally dry land. A handful of Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, and Double-crested Cormorants dotted the muddy water. Along the shore a Green Heron poked about. Three woodpecker species tapped at tree trunks. Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and three Bewick's Wrens gleaned the brush and trees. From the sparrow clan, a couple California Towhees and good number of Song Sparrows braved the wet weather. A single Anna's Hummingbird buzzed by, but the gray weather declined to light his gorget.

### 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  
 Janice Hunter 244-9235  
**Education:** Roberta Winchell 945-8342  
**Conservation:** Janet Wall 547-1189  
 Bruce Webb 275-2076  
**Newsletter:** Sally NeSmith 831-535-2888  
 Bill Oliver 941-7741  
**Webmaster/Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131  
**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

**2nd Saturday Bird Walk. March 11** A beautiful morning, a Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebirds greeted eleven birders at **Lema Ranch**. California Scrub Jays, American Robins, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black Phoebes and several members of the dove family got us started. The ponds produced Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Mallards,



*Common Gallinule / Photo: Mike Carion*



Buffleheads, Ring-neck Ducks, a Lesser Scaup, a Ruddy Duck, and American Coots. We were excited to spot a Common Gallinule with its bright vermilion beak. Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-bill Grebes, Belted



*American Kestrel / Photo: Mike Carion*

Kingfisher, and Killdeer were there also. The woodpecker family was well-represented with 5 species. Raptors were scarce except an American Kestrel that posed again and again making sure we all got a good long look. In all 53 species were counted. A few new to Wintu birders joined us.

### **Third Thursday Walk**

**Battle Creek, March 23** Despite fog, thirty-eight degrees, dewy grass that soaked through shoes and socks, the birding was great! Battle Creek was not stingy for eight birders who walked upcreek and around the marsh. The riparian woodlands sang with House Wrens and Oak Titmice. Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers added color, along with California Scrub-Jays and American Robins. Five woodpecker species included a Red-breasted Sapsucker. At the canal, a bright Belted Kingfisher startled both us and itself, and took off with barely a touch-down. The marsh was sprinkled with Red-winged Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens, a Wilson's Snipe, and a couple of heard-but-not-seen Soras. Nine species of swimming birds, included Common Gallinules and a late Common Golden-eye. The group found

the sun halfway back from the marsh, and with it soaring birds that brought the raptor count to four, a few Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and helped us see clearly the pair of Fox Sparrows that brought the sparrow species count to five—not including the Spotted Towhees that trilled to us out and back. Forty-nine species in all.

**March 31 – Wintu goes to school!** Dan Greaney & Sally NeSmith were invited to join **Dan Gunther** and his five science classes for a day of birding on the Sequoia Middle School campus. Each class seemed to find new birds to discover. Canada Geese were always present as well as American Crows, Common Ravens and Western Bluebirds. Some classes were regaled by a Bewick's Wren singing its head off and some glimpsed Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Anna's Hummingbirds, both Say's and Black Phoebes. Mockingbirds and California Scrub-Jays were present and noisy. There was a lot of student enthusiasm, although some of that was just being outside for science class!

**Youth/Beginner Walk, April 1** April Fool's notwithstanding, twenty birders – half adults and more than half youths! – enjoyed a normal day of spring birding. And fortunately, normal includes a whole lot of wonderful! From our thirty-three species observed, a few highlights: the bright charcoal and-lemon Yellow-rumped Warbler who offered some startling views; the busy Ruby-crowned Kinglets who did not; the Bald Eagle head poking above her nest; the handful of students who, binoculars up, stalked a few Sparrows and discovered their golden crowns!; the solitary green-headed Mallards who paddled about; the swirls of Tree Swallows, eyebrow-flashing California Scrub-Jays, and a Double-crested Cormorant hanging out to dry. It was beautiful, fun, and every day should be so normal!



**2nd Saturday Bird outing to Millville Plains April 18** was cancelled due to rain.

**April 13 Breaking Point** movie screening was a success. Held in McConnell Foundation's beautiful conference center, Desiree Loggins of the California Audubon presented this award-winning documentary to a full house. The Salton Sea is in demise and California Audubon is working to help mitigate the impact on the many Pacific Flyway migratory birds that use this area. She urged action and also encouraged all to visit this fascinating area.

**Mid-Week Birding, Thursday, April 20 to the Mouth of Cottonwood Creek State Wildlife Area** Rained out.

**Whole Earth & Watershed Festival, April 22** Wintu Audubon members staffed three booths at the Festival and participated in the March for Science. At our own booth many volunteers filled out Bea Currie's team. Some highlights: Chad Scott reported that he gave away over 200 hummingbird feeders; Jeannette and Harvey Carroll again set up their information-rich nest/poster display across the walk, which drew a steady stream of thoughtful visitors; and the Quail Call Team, standing in the mud section of

the City Hall lawn, led visitors, mostly children, in making some 350 calls. Larry Jordan, with Bill Oliver's help, staffed the Center for Biological Diversity booth.

Special thanks to Chuck Smith and Larry for preparing thirty nesting box kits, which Larry and Dan Greaney helped festival-goers assemble at the fair's STEAM booth, to put up at their own homes. The Festival director has already requested a repeat performance. ***Great job and thanks to all!***



*Burrowing Owl / Photo: Larry Jordan*

## **NEWSWORTHY EVENTS**

**Larry Jordan** reports that the Burrowing Owl project on Nord-cana Highway is doing well. He went there and cleared off the weeds growing in front of the burrows. Larry oversees this project funded in part by California Audubon. There are 24 burrows diligently dug by volunteers and lined with 4 inch perforated Corex tubing. He saw one owl in front of a burrow. Although he found evidence of an owl lost to a predator, he heard a young owl "rattle snake" alarm call coming from inside a burrow indicating reproductive success. At least one other adult was sighted.

*A Special Thank You*

*to the*

*McConnell Foundation*

*for hosting our special event*

*the Breaking Point Documentary.*

*The beautiful facilities*

*complemented our successful evening.*

WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 994533  
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# ***CHIRP-N-CHATTER***

**May / June 2017**



March for Science



Whole Earth & Watershed Festival



Bird House Kits  
by  
Chuck Smith  
&  
Larry Jordan  
ready to go



Photos by Chad Scott