



# 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 2018

### MAY ACTIVITIES

#### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, May 5 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month September through June at Turtle Bay. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell, 945-8342**, for more information. *We meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.*



#### GENERAL MEETING

##### Technology for Birders

**Tuesday, May 8 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Panel – Linda Aldrich, Dan Greaney, Larry Jordan and Chad Scott** Did you ever wonder about tools to assist your birding? Our panel will address what's available, from the most basic (binoculars, Linda Aldrich) to the most sophisticated (apps for smart phones, Chad Scott). Larry Jordan will talk about bird photography and Dan Greaney will tell us how to use eBird and what it does. Some of this will be basic for beginners, there will be something for the most experienced birders and "news that you can use" for all of us in between.



Killdeer / Sally NeSmith

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk at

**Battle Creek, May 12 @ 8:00 am** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has restored riparian habitat and maintains trails along Battle Creek including connecting trails through a marsh to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Bald Eagles, other raptors, marsh dwellers (both Sora and Virginia Rails), and early summer resident passerines are usually seen or heard during this 1/2-day trip. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are groomed but ground is uneven. Meet **Steve Royce**, at the parking lot at the Battle Creek Wildlife Area, reached by taking Hwy I5 or Hwy 273 south to Anderson, turning off at the Outlet Mall and following the signs east to Coleman Fish Hatchery. Questions? Steve's email: [kkona3@yahoo.com](mailto:kkona3@yahoo.com)

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**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, May 8 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Technology for Birders** Get the bird tech overview from a panel of Wintu experts; Binoculars, smart phone apps, photography and eBird will be discussed. Bring your questions.

**Tuesday, June 12 @ 6 pm**  
**Annual Wintu Picnic** at Tower House Historical area in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. This is a bring your own picnic. A bird walk will follow.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk at Mary Lake**  
**May 17 @ 8 am** Join leader **Linda Aldrich, 223-5341** at the Lakeside Drive trail head for this stroll around Mary Lake in west Redding. We will walk the 1-mile, paved trail around the lake with a side trip to the Old Catholic Cemetery. Many varieties of birds call this small lake their home: Great Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants, Belted Kingfishers, several duck species and the occasional raptor.

**Fourth Saturday Bird Outing at McArthur-Burney Falls State Park,**  
**Saturday, May 26** Join State Park Interpretive Specialist **Marlon Sloan** on an exploration of the park, including Modoc Plateau forest areas, creek-side habitat and lakeside species near Lake Britton. We will



*Photo / Sally NeSmith*

likely have opportunities to see Osprey, Bald Eagles, Steller's Jays, Turkey Vultures, Robins, Crows, Hawks, Mergansers and the Park's unique annual resident Black Swifts who flit in and around the falls themselves. The falls are full and beautiful in the spring! The walk will last for a couple of hours. Bring a lunch and enjoy the Park after the walk.

Meet Wintu guides at the Kutrass Lake Parking Area in Redding at 8 a.m., or meet at the Burney Safeway parking lot in Burney at 9:15 a.m. Contact **Catherine Camp, 337-6874** for more information.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES

**Discover Birding at Turtle Bay**  
**Saturday, June 2 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month September through June at Turtle Bay. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell, 945-8342**, for more information. *We meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the new Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.* As with the rest of our activities, we are no longer going to do bird walks during July and August.



## GENERAL MEETING

**Annual Picnic – Camden House @ Whiskeytown – Tuesday, June 12 @ 6 pm**  
 Join us at the last general meeting before our summer hiatus at 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. The parking lot for the Camden House is on the left side of Hwy. 299W just before the turnoff to French Gulch. Park passes are required, so some members may wish to carpool with others who have a park pass by assembling at Prestige Urgent Care at Eureka Way (Hwy 299W) & Buenaventura in Redding at 5:30 pm. Questions? Contact **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**.

## SUMMER ACTIVITY

**Camp-out at Lassen Volcanic National Park, Friday – Sunday, July 27–29**  
 We have enjoyed the birding and camping at the Lost Creek Group Campground for several years, so we are scheduling this event again this year in conjunction with Altacal Audubon. Group Camp sites #4 & 5 have been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. We are inviting

the Redwood Region, Peregrine, Mendocino, Plumas and Redbud Chapters to join us.

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.

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. 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. Questions? Contact **Larry Jordan, 949-5266** or email [Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org](mailto:Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org).

## TRIP REPORTS

**Second Saturday Bird Walk, March 10  
Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant** While it was a little early in the year for this site, the weather was nice and our six birders ended up seeing 55 species. Best birds were probably four early Greater Yellowlegs and lots of Wilson's Snipe, plus great views of Green-winged Teal. It was a Saturday and the main gate was locked, but that was fine, we just had to walk a little further.  
~ **George Horn**

**Millville Plains Outing, March 24**  
One lonely bird trip leader spent a productive day wondering the Millville Plains and surrounding area. With the threat of rain in the early morning, a very brief shower greeted him before reaching the small pond at the corner of Highway 44 and Millville Plains Road where he found his first treasure. The large unnamed pond gave up a half dozen waterfowl including Common Goldeneye and over 100 American Wigeon. The best prize however were the three Long-

### 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

billed Curlew spotted in the adjacent pasture! Highlights of the trip were nesting Osprey, two Merlin, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-billed Magpie, three Swallow species, a Bald Eagle, a Golden Eagle, and a squadron of American White Pelicans flying overhead!  
~ **Larry Jordan**



*Long-billed Curlew / Larry Jordan*

### Youth/Beginner Walk, April 7

**Turtle Bay** Two forever-beginner birders found 46 spring species at Turtle Bay. The bogglesome birdsong of Oak Titmice, House and Bewick's Wrens, tree-traipsing yellow-rumps, and sky-swirling Tree, Cliff, and a few Northern Rough-wings Swallows flew through the air like the ubiquitous Pipevine Swallowtails. Lingered pairs of Mallards, Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, Buffleheads, and Common Mergansers paddled the river and ponds. Bushtits hunted solo through the understory – all brown-eyed males, accompanied by a Scrub-jay or two, no doubt looking for their own good meal – although one, at least, was run off by a feisty Anna's Hummingbird. Raptors made a good showing. A young Bald Eagle, an Osprey, a Red-tail, a Red-shouldered, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk all were out and about after the earlier morning rain. An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Green Heron made spring cameos. Be sure to look for the Phoebe nest over the museum store sign! A fun and lively spring day!  
~Dan Greaney



### Second Saturday Bird Walk @ Clear Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant

**April 14** Thirteen birders enjoyed a beautiful day at the Clear Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant and were treated to many spring migrants as well as some holdover winter ducks. Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal were some of the duck highlights. Folks were able to get good looks at Western Kingbird, Bullock's Oriole and an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Many Yellow-rumped Warblers were singing and we also heard Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler and Common Yellowthroat. A small group of American White Pelicans were ob-

served flying down the river while overhead thousands of Greater White-fronted Geese criss-crossed the sky. ~Matt Gould

### Whole Earth & Watershed Festival

**April 21** A busy blast! Wintu Audubon helped visitors construct over 250 quail calls and about five dozen nesting boxes, and gave away 200 hummingbird feeders! Streams of visitors appreciated the activities and information. Thanks to Chad, Larry, Harvey & Jeannette, Sally, Ashley, George, Bill, Bea, Janice, Bob, Sarah, Jan, Linda, Janet, Beth, Connie, Catherine, CHYBA for construction, Dawn Smith for wood, David Ledger for allowing space-encroachment, and especially those whom my little brain fails to recollect- for helping make a really positive day for a lot of people, and maybe for some birds too! Well done! ~Dan Greaney

### Churn Creek Open Space Walk

**April 28** Leader Alicia Herrera led eight birders on a wonderful walk through oak forests, open meadows and a creek-side trail.

Threatening rain and a few sprinkles did not keep the birds away. Three local woodpeckers (Acorn, Downy, Nuttall's), Cooper's Hawk, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Ash-throated and



Ash-throated Flycatcher / Larry Jordan

Pacific Slope Flycatchers were just a few of the stand-outs. Along the riparian part of the trail we entered a world of warblers; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Grey, and Wilsons were all observed. We were also treated to Pine Siskins, Lesser Goldfinch and Cassins, Huttons's and Warbling Vireos plus a variety of others. 44 species total and a delightful group of birders.

## NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

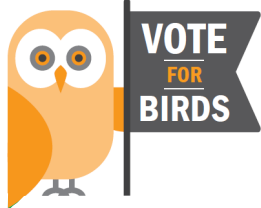
### Osprey Platform Update

Ospreys have made the new platform installed at Anderson River Park their home with a new nest and (hopefully) eggs.

### Audubon California supports

**Proposition 68** Audubon California has long fought to protect California's birds and natural landscapes – and encourage more people to experience these treasures – and that is why our organization emphatically supports Proposition 68 -- the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act. ***The measure will go before voters on June 5.***

The passage of Prop. 68 will further Audubon California's conservation goals around water, Salton Sea, coastal habitat protection, working lands, and the conserva-



tion of priority birds species. It will also increase access for millions of Californians to the state's outdoors, particularly in urban park-poor areas.

### REU Integrated Resource Plan

The City of Redding is seeking public input on its mandated energy plan. Clean energy is vital for birds. Audubon estimates that 314 North American species will lose half their seasonal habitat by 2080.

Learn more and help steer Redding's plan at [City of Redding](#) or go to City of Redding website [www.cityofredding.org](http://www.cityofredding.org) and search Integrated Resource Plan.



**Keep current of upcoming events & birding information.**  
Visit our website  
[wintuadubon.org](http://wintuadubon.org)



*Osprey on New Nesting Platform / Larry Jordan*

### Chapter Officers

Thanks to all the chapter officers who served this past year, and all those standing for election in May! If you have an hour or two a month, committee chairs need members! Contact the Chair or Dan at [greaneys@yahoo.com](mailto:greaneys@yahoo.com).

#### *The slate of nominees for 2018-19:*

President – Dan Greaney  
Vice President – Chad Scott  
Treasurer – Beth Brockman  
Recording Secretary – Catherine Camp  
Corresponding Secretary – Jeannette Carroll  
Program Chair – Chad Scott  
Education Chairs – Roberta Winchell, John Winchell, and Jody Greaney  
Field Trip Chair – Linda Aldrich  
Conservation Chairs – Janet Wall, Bruce Webb  
Finance Chair – Catherine Camp  
Newsletter – Lis Peery  
Membership – Chad Scott  
Webmaster/Publicity – Larry Jordan  
Directors at Large – Harvey Carroll, Bea Curry, Esther Cox, Bill Oliver, George Horn, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith

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

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May / June 2018



## Whole Earth & Watershed Festival

Larry Jordan snapped these shots of the Wintu Audubon booth. Over 250 quail callers were made.



Shelley demonstrates a quail call.



Seems to have worked!

