



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 2019

MAY ACTIVITIES

Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, May 4 @ 9:00 am Our family/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 **John Winchell** at 241-1448, for more information. *We will meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the new Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.*



GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 8 @ 7:00 pm
Effects of Climate Change on Mammals of Lassen NP **Mike Magnusson**, Wildlife Biologist at Lassen Volcanic NP, will report on his research on pikas and the Sierra Nevada red fox. Can pikas survive rapid climate change? How is the red fox, one of the state's rarest mammals, faring? Come learn from the biologist studying them about these hidden beauties of our locale!



Pika Photograph by Larry Kuhn

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Oregon Gulch, Saturday, May 11 @ 8:00 am Join **Dan Greaney** on this half day walk seeking the abundant but elusive birds of the chaparral at Oregon Gulch. In addition to raptors and more visible brush birds, we'll look for wrentits, blue-gray gnatcatchers, thrashers, and maybe even spot a singing male Bell's or Black-chinned Sparrow. For this special trip, meet at 8am at South Market (273) and Kenyon Dr. We'll carpool out the rutted road from Cascade Rigging, the first shop on the left on Kenyon. Questions? Call Dan at 276-9673.

NOTE: New Meeting Days & Place!!

Wintu Audubon Society General Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive, Redding. The public is invited.

Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive, Redding. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 8 @ 7:00 pm, Climate Change & the Mammals of Lassen Volcanic NP. Wildlife Biologist **Mike Magnusson**, will discuss Pikas and the Red Fox at the Park.

Wednesday, June 12 @ 6 pm, Wintu Audubon Society Annual Picnic Join fellow birders at Caldwell Park (Quartz Hill Rd @ N. Market St.) for picnic and birding.





GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 12 @ 6 pm

Annual Wintu Audubon Picnic, Caldwell Park Traditionally our end of the year picnic has been held at the Camden House in Whiskeytown. However, due to fire damage from the Carr Fire, this year we will gather at **Caldwell Park**. The South Grove Picnic Area is a beautiful site shaded by several large valley oaks, located between the new kids bike park and the river. Parking available directly behind the Redding Aquatic Center or the parking lot on Quartz Hill Road near North Market Street. Bring your own food. There should be good birding in the park and along the river.

Lassen Campout

July 26–27, Lost Creek Campground

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 site #5 has been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27. We are inviting the Redwood Region, Peregrine, Mendocino, Plumas and Redbud Chapters to join us.

Species expected include Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Vaux's Swift, Common Nighthawk, Bufflehead, Gray Jay, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager and Cassin's Finch.

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 after 1pm. Saturday day trippers should meet at the Kutra's Park meeting

Local Weekday Bird Walk at the Arboretum, Thursday, May 16 @ 8:00 am Meet trip leader **Sally NeSmith (831-535-2888)** at the Carl & Leah McConnell gate (Arboretum Drive off of North Market) for a meander through the Arboretum, over the Sundial Bridge and back along the river trail. Several types of Woodpeckers, Towhees, Goldfinches, and Warblers will be observed as well as the nesting Osprey family. Red-shouldered Hawks, Wood Ducks and the Common Yellowthroat may be present.

Wintu Audubon Outing to Burney Falls, Saturday, May 25 Join us on a day journey to Burney Falls State Park. We will 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 Kutras 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

Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, June 1 @ 9:00 am Our family/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 **John Winchell at 241-1448**, for more information. *We will meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the new Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.*



Keep current of upcoming events & birding information. Visit our website wintuadubon.org

place at 8:00 am Saturday morning to car pool. Day trippers for Sunday, July 28, will meet at the campsite at 9:00 am.

[Lost Creek](#) has primitive facilities; pit toilets and no electricity. Potable water is available. Contact **Larry Jordan, 949-5266** or email Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org for other particulars.

TRIP REPORTS

Mid-Week Walk at Mary Lake, March 21

A brisk and birdy morning greeted seven birders during this spring stroll around Mary Lake. Nancy, one birder wrote, "Wow how many species were identified?" (48!!) "It's amazing that one of the smallest birds (Bushtit) was sighted in the largest of numbers. My favorite was learning how to identify the Lesser Goldfinch and my first sighting of Spotted Towhee where I actually saw the spots! It was a great group." Indeed, with the fire having cleared out some of the underbrush, we saw an abundance of birdlife. Quail, Green-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Coots, and Ruddy Ducks were in attendance and an Osprey soared and danced overhead.

Beginner/Family Bird Walk

Turtle Bay, April 6 While the steady rain did not portend much of a turnout for our monthly Family bird walk, I was happily surprised that not only did the rain pause as I drove into parking area at Turtle Bay, I was also met by two enthusiastic and intrepid birders. We decided to take advantage of the break in the weather to do an out and back to the eagle nest to see if any eagles had returned. While no eagles were sighted, our chapter mascot, the Belted Kingfisher greeted us, some water fowl remained, particularly Mallards, Ring-Necked Ducks, and Buffleheads, and we got a close encoun-

2017 – 2018 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

President: Dan Greaney 276-9693

Vice-President:

Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228

Recording Secretary: Catherine Camp
337-6874

Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette
Carroll 246-3634

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs:

Education: Roberta & John Winchell
945-8342, Jody Greaney 646-9631

Conservation: Janet Wall 547-1189
Bruce Webb 515-5324

Newsletter: Sally NeSmith

Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan
949-5266

Membership: George Horn 244-0581,
Janice Hunter 244-2935

Finance: Catherine Camp 337-6874

Field Trips: Linda Aldrich 223-5341

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Bea Currie, Esther Cox,
Bill Oliver, George Horn, Connie Word

ter with a Sharp-shinned Hawk, that roosted below us. And while I am no Warbler expert, the extent of my sure identification being the Yellow-rumped Warbler because of his "yellow rump", I believe we saw a pair of Townsend's Warbler due to dark mask and crown with bright yellow around face and upper body. But I defer to the experts. Regardless, it seems whenever we make the time to spend time in the outdoors, and look around us, we are treated to something new and inspiring

Gray Davis Dye Creek Preserve offers only limited public access, so it was unfortunate that only four brave birders made the trek up the canyon on what turned out to be a gorgeous, clear and warm day. The birding actually began at Cone Grove Park, on the way to the preserve, where we tallied 26 species, including Wood Duck, Cliff Swallow, and the California endemic Yellow-billed Magpie. Traveling south on Foothill Road to the preserve entrance we added several species to the list including Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, many Wilson's Snipe, a telemetry-collared Ross's Goose and several Tricolored Blackbirds. Dye Creek Preserve itself showed us 41 species for a total of 62 for the trip. The best sightings at Dye Creek were a Vesper Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle, topped off with a singing Canyon Wren!



Dye Creek Photograph by Larry Jordan

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Officers

The Wintu Audubon Nominating Committee has announced its slate of chapter officers. Elections will be held at the General Meeting on May 8. Chapter members may also make nominations from the floor at that time, or contact George Horn at 244-0581. We encourage broad participation as directors-at-large (elected) and committee members (not elected positions).

The slate of nominees for 2019-20:

President - Dan Greaney

Vice President - John Winchell

Treasurer - Beth Brockman

Recording Secretary - Catherine Camp

Corresponding Secretary - Jeannette Carroll

Program Chair - OPEN

Education Chair - Terri Lhuillier

Conservation Chairs - Janet Wall,
Bruce Webb

Newsletter - Larry Jordan

Webmaster/publicity - Larry Jordan

Membership - George Horn

Field Trip Chair - Tim Kashuba

Directors-at-Large - Bill Oliver, Linda Aldrich, Connie Word, Bea Currie, Harvey Carroll, Sally NeSmith, Esther Cox

Thank-you, thank you, thank you ...

- ❁ **Bea Currie** - general fund, hoping to support a second attendee at the National Convention this July.
- ❁ **CHYBA** - building thirty nesting boxes for along the River Trail and 100 nesting boxes for participant assembly at our Whole Earth & Watershed Festival Makers' Booth tables.
- ❁ Thanks to **Dawn Smith** for donating the wood for the bird boxes given away at the Watershed Festival.
- ❁ Thanks to **Dr. Eleanor Canova-Davis** of Redwood City for her generous donation to the chapter.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

Congratulations

Publishing congratulations are in order for some Wintu members.

Virginia Reynolds Williams' book *Consider the Raven: Meditations Beside a Vernal Pool* is available through [WestBow Press](#) and also through Amazon. Later in May it should be at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to **Catherine Camp** and **Sally NeSmith**, author and illustrator respectively, of *Big Wheels Ranch*, a memoir of communal living in the North State, now available through [River Sanctuary Publishing](#)

Blue Bird Nesting Boxes

Those of us that use the Sacramento River Trail upriver from the Diestlehorst Bridge may have noticed the presence of bird boxes in the vicinity of Middle Creek road on the south side of the trail.

Larry Jordan, of Wintu Audubon has

been working on supporting the populations of nesting birds in Northern California for some time, by supplying bird nesting habitat



not only for cavity nesters such as Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, but for Burrowing Owls as well. With the support of local suppliers and craftsman who supplied the nesting boxes to the Audubon Society, Larry led the project to install an additional eighteen nest boxes in the area between the River Trail and the Sacramento River near the end of Middle Creek Road. This area had been burned by the Carr Fire with subsequent loss of nesting sites for cavity nesting birds.

We carefully monitor these nests each week, to record activity, as well as to perform any maintenance tasks that need to take place. This usually takes less than a minute per nest, and does not adversely impact the nesting birds, although the birder performing this task may have an up close and personal encounter with the would-be parents.

Lots of ducking of dive-bombing swallows!

While we do not have any eggs in any of the boxes as yet, tree swallows have built full nests in two boxes so far, and we anticipate the arrival of eggs soon. Nesting material has been found in several others. More to come as this exciting project continues.



Photograph by John Winchell



Photographs by Larry Jordan

WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Thanks for another very positive Earth Day/Watershed Festival!

Before the beautiful day turned into a festival-ending squall, visitors were given **99 hummingbird feeders**, made about **65 nesting boxes**, assembled some **300 quail calls**, took a whole stack of membership brochures, and had a good time! Thanks to all who helped this effort!

Well done all!



Photograph by Larry Jordan