



# 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 2020

## ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wintu Audubon suspended activities in early March, as soon as the benefits of physical distancing became clear. We will take our normal summer hiatus, and plan to resume programs and field trips in the fall.

Of course we miss the camaraderie, recreation, and record-gathering of spring field trips, but here are a few resources that might help people keep in touch with the bird world--which of course is the same world that we live in!

- Your yard and less-traveled trails! Battle Creek and Yana Trail are two of my spring favorites.
- [wintuadubon.org](http://wintuadubon.org) - our local website, maintained by Larry Jordan, includes a calendar of birding programs, a blog of bird-lore, online membership sign-ups, and links to multiple birding resources.
- [audubon.org](http://audubon.org) - the national organization, a great umbrella site to introduce bird science, art, and conservation, with special focus on birds and working lands, and climate change.
- [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu) - The Cornell Lab of Ornithology houses numerous excellent resources including [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) with species by species natural history, and [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) with its compendium of bird sightings, where you can report your sightings and research what others have seen locally and around the world.

- [ABCbirds.org](http://ABCbirds.org) - focusing on bird conservation.
- [shastabirders.groups.io](http://shastabirders.groups.io) - signing up will get you email alerts from other members when rare or special birds are sighted.

Best wishes to all our members! Enjoy and take care in this time of special consideration.

**Dan Greaney - President, Wintu Audubon**

For more information on the State of California stay at home orders please [go to their website!](#) You can also find our local Shasta County COVID-19 info at [Shasta Ready](#)

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### Field Trips:

Unfortunately, our Field Trip Chair had to step down last August. Fortunately, chapter members stepped up, and the chapter was still able to offer Redding-area trips from Cascade Park to the River Trail, from Lema Ranch to Mary Lake, and farther afield from Ash Creek to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. Favorites include the vermilion flycatcher at the Maxwell Cemetery, golden-crowned kinglets on the River Trail, and--gulp--a merlin dining on a golden-crowned sparrow at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. ***Please see Catherine Camp's article on Board elections if you would like to help schedule field trips next year!***

### **Program:**

Before COVID shut us down, our programs treated us to birds in Cambodia, Africa, and South America. We met the local saw-whet owl, a common but rarely seen presence. Our December program featured climate change research on birds--a program that spurred the chapter to participate in data-gathering for Audubon's research. Our final programs had to be postponed, but we plan to explore the world of spotted owls in September, and hone raptor ID skills in October- (warning: presenter Bob Yutzy plans to quiz us!) See the fall newsletter for updates!

The *Whole Earth and Watershed Festival* was cancelled, but we're in good shape for next year as, once again, Dawn Smith donated wood and CHYBA charter school offered to pre-cut and drill it. We'll be ready next year for festival-goers to assemble their own bird boxes.

### **Education:**

This year the chapter continued its "Family/ Beginner Walks" at Turtle Bay on the first Saturday of each month. Turtle Bay is a tremendous birding area and so accessible, and the walks draw a regular trickle of participants. We continue to struggle, however, to draw youths into the programs. We are working on a couple of venues to expand that outreach. Stay tuned!

### **Shade-grown Coffee Orders**

Stephanie will place a last-of-the-year order for bird-friendly coffee--organic, shade-grown, and fair trade. The coffee costs more--\$11.70 per 12 oz. bag, but really makes a difference for the birds, including many of our migrants. Our next order will be placed in the fall. To order for the summer, contact Stephanie at [shughess123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shughess123@sbcglobal.net) or 774-7938 by **May 4th**. Choose light or dark roast, regular or decaf, and whole bean or ground. Stephanie will contact you by mid-May to arrange delivery and payment for your order.

## **WINTU AUDUBON BOARD ELECTIONS**

The suspension of Wintu Audubon activities this spring has required a pause in our usual process of electing members of the Board of Directors, including officers and committee chairs. Our next program year, 2020-2021, will begin this summer. We will vote on a slate of Board members as soon as we are able to meet. Board members serve on Committees and assist with the birding, conservation and educational activities that the Club provides. The Board meets monthly. We still have openings for next year and welcome new volunteers. If you are willing to serve on a Committee of the Board or as an unassigned Director at Large, please get in touch with our webmaster at [webmaster@wintuaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@wintuaudubon.org)  
~ **Catherine Camp**

Below find the current slate of nominees for directors, officers and committee chairs:

### Officers

President: Dan Greaney  
Vice President: John Winchell  
Treasurer: Beth Brockman  
Recording Secretary: Catherine Camp  
Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Carroll

### Committee Chairs

Programs: OPEN  
Field Trips: OPEN  
Education: OPEN  
Conservation: Janet Wall & Bruce Webb  
Newsletter: Larry Jordan  
Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan.  
Membership: George Horn.

### Directors At Large

Harvey Carroll, Linda Aldrich, Bill Oliver, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith, Roberta Winchell, Bea Currie, Erika Iacona

# TRIP REPORTS

## Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Outing, February 29th

Gray Lodge welcomed ten Wintu Audubon birders, but its waters were low. Impoundments usually littered with swimming ducks had turned to mudflats probed by stilts and coots. Still, some areas held enough water that winter waterfowl remained in substantial numbers. Species appearing in the hundreds or thousands included Snow, Ross's, and Greater White-fronted Geese; Shovelers, Gadwall, Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Coots, Stilts, Ibis, and Red-winged Blackbirds. A single log held four Cinnamon Teal, two Blue-winged Teal, and, just off the end of it, two Green-winged Teal. At least three Great-horned owls included one on a nest at Parking lot 14, and Bushtits were also actively nesting. Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes flew overhead. A total of 60 species were observed on this mild winter day!

~ **Dan Greaney**

## Second Saturday Bird Walk at Cascade Park, March 14th

We had 6 birders and saw 45 bird species and enjoyed the walk even though we were a bit chilled. There seemed to be an abundance of Nuttall's Woodpeckers in the Oak trees so perhaps they were looking for nest sites. The Oak Titmouse calls were numerous and they were also busy in the trees. Bill Oliver brought his Cascade Park "Bird List" and was able to add two new species to it. He had never seen Northern Rough-wing Swallows or Northern Shovelers in the park before; so that was exciting.

The group adjourned to Carroll's home to warm up and check out species using Carrolls bird feeders. Numerous sparrows were at the seed feeders and many Lesser and American Goldfinches were busy on the thistle feeders. Sally NeSmith spotted a Nuttall's Woodpecker carving out some neat nest holes in a

Sycamore tree where they have now been busy raising a family. We hadn't noticed it before.

~ **Jeanette Carroll**

Harvey & Jeanette Carroll also have several active Wood Duck nestboxes! These are some images from those very active boxes!



P.O. Box 994533  
REDDING, California 96099-4533



# ***CHIRP-N-CHATTER***

**May / June 2020**



**Do you want more detailed information about birds?** Cornell Lab's superb informational website "Birds of North America Online" will become "Birds of The World" in March, and they are giving our members a 20% discount for a two year membership! When you sign up just use the code **WINTU20** at <https://birdsna.org>