



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

September / October 2016

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

General Meeting

Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:00 pm

Catherine and Bill Camp just returned from a trip to the High Arctic. They will bring photos of the birds of the Svalbard Archipelago, Eastern Greenland and Iceland, as well as polar bears, walrus, whales and lots of ice!

September Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

Saturday, September 3 @ 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. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

Please remember that we now assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.

2nd Saturday Bird Walk

Shasta College, September 10 @ 8:00 am

With early fall migrants returning and before late summer residents leave, the oak woodlands, wastewater treatment pond, Stillwater Creek riparian, and open fields should support a wide variety of species.

Meet in Shasta College's north parking lot for this ½ day trip that is open to the public.

Bill Oliver and **Connie Word** will lead.

Local Weekday Bird Walk

Lema Ranch – Thursday, September 15

@ 8:00 am The Lema Ranch (home to the McConnell Foundation Headquarters) trails are paved and offer various habitats: cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open fields and oak woodlands.

Past September trips have yielded some local specialties including Common Gallinule, Great-tailed Grackle, Lark Sparrow and Western

Bluebird as well as resident waterfowl and songbirds. First of season in-Meet trip leader **Linda Aldrich** at 8:00 am in the parking lot off Hemmingway St., off Shasta View Drive for this ½-day outing.

Wintu Audubon Society Chapter meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the United Way, 2280 Benton Drive, Redding.

Board Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM also at the United Way meeting room. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 13: Catherine and Bill Camp talk about birds of the High Arctic.

October 11: Susan Brady of The McConnell Foundation describes habitat management of Lema Ranch and Churn Creek Open Space.



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

General Meeting

Tuesday, October @ 7:00 pm

Sara Brady, McConnell Trails / Habitat Management Sara Brady will describe the habitat management of The McConnell Foundation's Lema Ranch and Churn Creek Open Space. She will report on the ongoing habitat restoration being carried out by McConnell and interns from Shasta College of Ross Ranch (a future open space property.)

October Field Trips

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

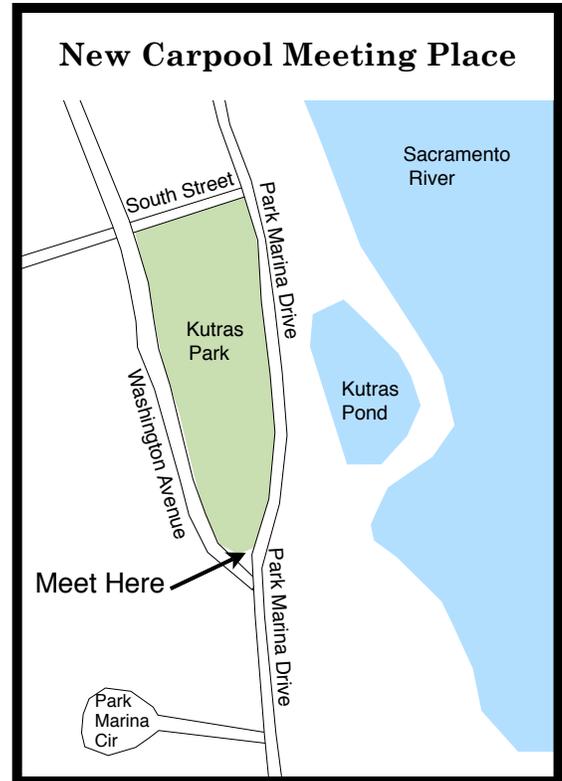
Saturday, October 1 @ 9:00 am Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, with questions or for more information.

Please remember that we now assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.

2nd Saturday Bird Walk

John Reginato River Access Trail, October 8 @ 8:00 am This trail leaves the parking lot of the John Reginato Boat Launch on the west side of the Sacramento River off South Bonnyview Road. Good views of the Sacramento River are afforded on this short trail as it traverses a mixed riparian woodland. We should see a variety of winter resident passerines and waterfowl and possibly a few late-leaving summer residents.

PLEASE NOTE: Assemble at the small parking area at the corner of Washington Ave. and Park Marina Drive (see map) for carpooling and last minute instructions. This ½-day walk is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome.



McArthur-Burney Falls State Park Heritage Day, Sunday, October 9

@ 8:00 am The State Park presents a celebration of life in the Intermountain Area of Shasta County in the 1870s. Wintu Audubon will participate with a bird walk at 9:30 am lead by **George Horn** and **Linda Aldrich** before Heritage Day activities. We may see several woodpecker species—White-headed, Hairy, and even a Pileated, as well as Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Northern Goshawk. **Dave Ledger** of the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, will lead a native plant walk in the morning, as well. He will start at **11 am**. We expect that some folks would want to go to both outings. Wintu has helped develop an updated bird list for the State Park; it should be available for distribution by Heritage Day. Dave Ledger is working on a native plant list. He will bring copies of the list for his walk on Heritage Day.

Stay for **Heritage Day** activities from **noon to 4:00**. Entrance to the park is free on that day.

To carpool, assemble at the small parking area at the corner of Washington Ave. and Park Marina Drive (see map above). Eastern Shasta County participants can meet us in the Safeway parking lot in Burney at 9:00.

Return of the Salmon Festival at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Saturday, October 15 View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths and much more. Wintu Audubon will staff a booth. Contact **Bea Currie, 243-3955** for details for lending a hand!

Northern California Audubon Chapter Meeting, Fort Bragg, October 14 – 15 The 2016 Northern California Council Meeting is a program Audubon California is hosting in partnership with Mendocino Coast Audubon Society. These yearly programs are meant to be a fun social and educational gathering that fosters connection between chapter leaders. Get to know your regional peers and share resources! The Friday session will include an afternoon dinner, and the Council Meeting will be held on Saturday after an early bird walk. Contact **Chad Scott** at **619-852-4555** for more information.

20th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 17 – 20, 2016 The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 20th Annual Symposium Nov. 17 – 20, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Please join us for this special 20th anniversary CVBS! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips, check out our website at: <http://www.cvbsreg.org> Registration begins September 7, 2016.

2016 – 2017 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

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President: Chad Scott 619-852-4555
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Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228
Recording Secretary: Jeannette Carroll 246-3634
Corresponding Secretary: Beatrice Currie 243-3955

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Education: Dan Greaney 276-9693
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Webmaster: Larry Jordan 472-3131
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Publicity: Larry Jordan 472-3131
Finance: Catherine Camp 337-6874
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DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Ester Cox, Janice Hunter,
 Michael Carion, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

TRIP REPORTS

Battle Creek, 4/21/16 Six birders met in the Battle Creek Wildlife Area parking lot under partly sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s, gradually warming to the 70s. **Linda Aldrich** led the first part of the trip in a loop to the right from the bridge which included views of Battle Creek. We had already had a treat in the parking lot – a Bullock's Oriole in brilliant breeding plumage. Other "good" birds seen and/or heard during this portion of the trip were Wood Duck, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-headed Grosbeak. During this portion of the trip, 31 species of birds

were identified. **Kathy Trevino** kindly shared her narrative of the trip on to Coleman Fish Hatchery. Stand-out species they saw were Belted Kingfisher, Marsh Wren, Common Gallinule, Common Yellowthroat, Green-winged Teal and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Kathy's total count for the day was 54 species. Her narrative with the complete list is posted on the website.

May 7, 2016 - Youth Walk The day was gray, but the birds lit up the rainbow! Three eager birders formed the Youth/Beginner birdwalk and found a host of colors! Reds decked four kinds of woodpeckers, as well as Ash-throated Flycatchers, Towhees, a Green Heron, and Common Mergansers. Yellows glowed from young Orioles, bills of Mallards and Egrets, and a bright Yellow Warbler. The heron and ducks, along with Anna's Hummingbirds, flashed their greens. Blues shone from Scrub Jays and Tree Swallows. Nor were the blacks, browns, and whites to be outdone, with Canada Geese, California Towhees, Song Sparrows, and a Bewick's Wren adding to mix. All in all, a colorful and song-filled morning!



For the latest
Wintu Audubon Society
news and birding information
visit our website

www.wintuadubon.org

Lassen Park Joint Audubon Outing, June 24–26 Over twenty birders enjoyed a couple of warm days and very cool nights at the Lost Creek Campground for our annual Lassen Volcanic National Park outing with members of Wintu, Altacal and Redwood Region chapters. Several group bird walks found over fifty bird species from Manzanita Lake to Bumpass Hell, where one group was treated to looks at Yellow-bellied Marmots and Pika.

One of the most captivating experiences occurred Friday at dusk as around a dozen Common Nighthawks were observed foraging on the wing over the old burn behind the campground. Pileated Woodpeckers were also found around the campsite as well as Western Tanagers, Gray Jays and several other species. The Williamson's Sapsuckers delighted the onlookers as they nested in the same tree as last year near Summit Lake.

Probably the best birds spotted during the outing would be a Green-tailed Towhee at Manzanita Lake and a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch spotted by **Chet Ogan**, Redwood Region, as it flew across the road right in front of the car between Summit Trail and King's Creek picnic area road.



Green-tailed Towhee

Photo by Larry Jordan

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

Tri-Colored Blackbird Colonies Saved

Photo by Linda Pittman



From *Audubon California newsletter July 2016* Through cooperative agreements with farmers in the Central Valley, a historic one hundred percent of rare Tricolored Blackbird colonies on agricultural fields were protected during the 2016 harvest season.

Working with the USDA California Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Tricolored Blackbird Project, Audubon California helped seven farmers delay the silage harvest, saving roughly 57,000 birds on 378 acres.

For decades the blackbirds have established large nesting colonies in triticale, a plant that farmers feed their dairy cows. Harvest season normally coincides with the birds' nesting season but this year the farmers agreed to delay harvest to allow young Tricolored Blackbirds time to fledge.

The California Fish and Game Commission voted to designate this blackbird as a candidate for state endangered species listing in January 2015 and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is now reviewing current scientific information on the species. The United States Fish and Wildlife Department is also reviewing a federal endangered species listing.

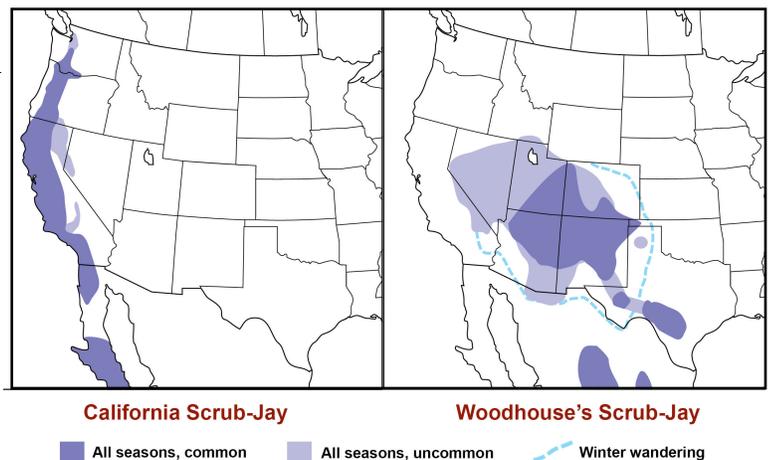
Western Scrub-Jay Gets a New Name

Kenn Kaufman reports on the Audubon website that the American Ornithologists Union's Checklist Committee announced this year that the **Western Scrub-Jay** is now split into two species: the **California Scrub-Jay** (*Aphelocoma californica*) and **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*). Birders have long recognized that these widespread western jays come in different flavors: a darker, more rich color in California, Oregon, and southwestern Washington, and a somewhat paler, grayer type in the interior West, from Nevada east to Texas. Many field guides already illustrate them separately as "coastal form" (or "Pacific form") and "interior form." They do hybridize where their ranges come together in western Nevada, but studies have shown that such interbreeding is very limited. Now they will be officially recognized as separate species.

Birders who have traveled widely in the West have probably seen both of these already, and will net an automatic "armchair lifer" from the decision. If you've already seen them, you can go ahead and count them. For an interesting description of the (now) **California Scrub-Jay**, visit the Wintu Audubon's blog and read the article by **Linda Aldrich**.

<http://www.wintuaudubon.org/blog/>

Range Maps by Kenn Kaufman



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Redding City Council Candidates Forum

Wintu Audubon is co-sponsoring a forum for the **Redding City Council** race to be held in the Social Hall of the First United Methodist Church on **Monday, October 3 at 6 pm**. Other sponsors of the forum include Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society, Shasta Group Sierra Club, Trails and Bikeways Council of Greater Redding, and Ride Redding.

Candidates **Gary Cadd, Julie Winter, Lea Tate** and **Adam McElvain** have confirmed they will be participating. Candidates will make opening statements and then the moderator will read questions that have been submitted by the audience on 3 x 5 cards and each candidate will answer the question. No candidate will be supported or opposed, as this forum will be to promote an informed vote by listening to the candidates and their views on issues in this election.

It will be important to have a good turnout to show the candidates that many people are concerned about open space, hiking trails, biking trails, riparian areas and parks in Redding. We could use volunteers to help with this event. For information or to volunteer, call **David Ledger** at **530-355-8542** or email at dledger@sbcglobal.net