

# 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 2017

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

#### Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

**Saturday, Sept 2 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/  
beginner bird walks are conducted on the  
first Saturday of every month throughout the  
year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars  
and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell** at  
**945-8342**, with questions or for more infor-  
mation. *We assemble at the Venture Proper-  
ties parking lot. Take the first left before the  
Redding Civic Auditorium.*

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk

**at Shasta College, Sept 9 @ 8 am** Meet at  
Shasta College's North Parking Lot at 8am  
to join this 1/2 day exploration of the oak  
woodlands, open fields, and Stillwater Creek  
riparian areas. We'll look for our local resi-  
dent birds, early fall migrants, and summer  
hold-overs. Also, this is the perfect time to  
find vagrants who are doing their own ex-  
ploring as they meander south. Our walks  
are open to the public. For information call  
your trip leader, **Dan Greaney**, at **276-9693**.



### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, Sept 12 @ 7:00 pm**

**Colombia Birding Trip** Wintu Audubon  
presents **Jeannette & Harvey Carroll**  
sharing their travels to Colombia, a country  
of over 49 million people, most of whom live  
at very high elevations. Over 2,000 bird spe-  
cies of birds have been recorded there, 87 of

which are endemic to that country. The  
Carrolls traveled to Colombia in January  
2017 and enjoyed seeing over 500 species of  
birds. Twenty-seven of them were endemics.  
The geography, people and flora and fauna of  
Colombia are fascinating. The Carrolls will  
present a cross-section of the beautiful birds  
they encountered plus a discussion of the  
country itself.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk at  
Lema Ranch – Thursday, Sept 21 @ 8:00  
am** Lema Ranch offers various habitats:  
cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open

**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.



Oak Titmouse / Larry Jordan

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Sept 12 @ 7:00 pm  
Colombia Birding Trip  
Jeannette & Harvey  
Carroll.** will present a  
cross-section of the 500+  
beautiful birds they  
encount-ered in Columbia.

**Tuesday, Oct 10 @ 7 pm  
Which Came First, the  
Chicken or the Egg?** Long-  
time Audubon member and  
biologist **Linda Aldrich**, will  
discuss the domestication  
of chickens, pigeons, and  
turkeys to see what is  
known or surmised about  
how and when close  
human/animal associations  
came about.

fields and oak woodlands. These varied habitats provide good birding in all seasons. Expected to be seen are the Common Gallinule, Great-tailed Grackle, Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird. Meet trip leader **Linda Aldrich**, at 8:00 am in the parking lot at Hemingway Road off of Shasta View. Questions: **223-5341**.

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Meiss Lake Saturday, Sept 23 @ 7 am** Meiss Lake is part of the Butte Valley Wildlife Area in Siskiyou County. The habitat includes wetlands, croplands, grasslands and woodlands. Birders may see Ross's Geese and Tundra Swans, and a variety of dabbling ducks, shorebirds, hawks and owls. Meet trip leader **Bill Oliver 741-7741** at the Kutras parking lot at for carpooling. This is an all day trip so bring a lunch.

## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

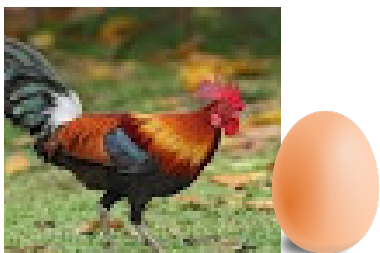
**Discover Birding at Turtle Bay Saturday, Oct 7 @ 9:00 am** Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday of every month throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Roberta Winchell at 945-8342**, with questions or for more information. *Meet at the Venture Properties parking lot, the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.*



### GENERAL MEETING

**Which Came First, the Chicken or the Egg? – Tuesday, Oct 10 @ 7 pm** Wintu Audubon presents this question researchers

are investigating in an effort to discover how the wild Red Jungle Fowl of India eventually became the tame, egg-laying chicken



so familiar today. **Linda Aldrich**, long-time Audubon member and biologist, will present what is known or surmised about how and when close human/animal associations led to the domestication of chickens, pigeons, turkeys and other birds.

### Second Saturday Bird Walk

**at Mary Lake – Oct 14 @ 8 am** Assemble at Lakeside Drive at the trail head to meet trip leader **Sally NeSmith, 831-535-2888** 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.

### Local Weekday Bird Walk at Anderson

**River Park – Thursday, Oct 19 @ 8:00 am** Meet trip leader **Linda Aldrich 223-5341**, at the Anderson River Amphitheater parking lot. The river access, ponds, marsh, riparian and oak woodlands are all accessible by an extensive trail system. All varieties of avian life are found here from waterfowl, Osprey, Bald Eagles to California Scrub-Jays and warblers.

### Return of the Salmon Festival

**at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Saturday, October 21** This year we will

be celebrating the 25th annual Return of the Salmon Festival and the 75th anniversary of



Coleman National Fish Hatchery. 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!

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Arcata Marsh Saturday, Oct 28 @ 8 am** We will gather at the Interpretive Center, 569 S G Street, to meet trip leader **Bill Oliver**. Many participants on this trip spend the night in Arcata to meet there in the morning. The sanctuary integrates the City of Arcata's wastewater treatment plant with 307 acres with walking paths through freshwater marshes, salt marsh, tidal sloughs, grassy uplands, and mudflats. Many shorebirds and migrants along the Pacific Flyway are seen here. Call **Bill @ 741-7741** for more information.

## TRIP REPORTS

### April 29, 2017 – Table at Garden Tour

**Linda Aldrich** reports the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society held their biennial tour of 5 residential gardens, and Wintu Audubon had a table of literature at one of them, **Jay and Terri Theskens'**. Six volunteers watched over the table, answered questions from many of the 100 people who toured the bird-friendly gardens and the hospitality of the Theskens. We counted 15 species of birds that visited the several feeders, the bird bath and the native plant habitat. Notable were a Cooper's Hawk with a nest in a neighboring yard, a little flock of Bushtits that bathed and drank in the bird bath and a Yellow-billed Magpie.



Nuttall's / Sally NeSmith

### Youth/Beginner Walk.

#### May 6 @ Turtle Bay

We greeted this VERY windy Saturday morning with trepidation regarding turnout, but were pleasantly surprised by the arrival of 16 enthusiastic birders led by **Roberta Winchell**, as well as great turnout of birds. The kids were delighted to watch a

## 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

Black Phoebe up close showing us how to catch insects in midair using a dead branch as a vantage base/dining table. We were also lucky enough to have a pair of young sharp eyes spot a Tree Swallow pop in and out of a high tree hole to feed the chicks inside. We watched as a pair Canada Geese escorted their brood of 10-15 chicks down the middle of the river. We spotted at least 21 species of birds, and most of the group enjoyed a raft of river otters floating by. Not bad! Also, a thanks to Dan Greaney for patiently guiding us into this job, whoops, I mean adventure!



## Second Saturday Bird Walk, May 13

**Lake McCumber** Couldn't ask for a prettier day in May! Willows and dogwoods were bursting along the lake in fountains of yellow-green foliage, while in their leafy shade icy pats of snow helped make the morning crisp! And the birds knew it was the season! Had to wish the Black-headed Grosbeaks and Red-winged Blackbirds would quiet down so we could hear the Yellow Warbler trills, the Hermit Warbler seezles, and the nasal honking of the Red-breasted Nuthatches. Pied-billed Grebes hooted on the water, while Osprey and a Bald Eagle eyed things from overhead. Tree Swallows and Vaux's Swifts skittered through the air. On shore, Northern Flickers and a Red-breasted Sapsucker poked at the new growth, Western Bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows patrolled the field, Song Sparrows joined the Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the willows, and an American Robin chased a Steller's Jay from something special. But not from a special spring day!

~ **Chad Scott**

## Local Weekday Bird Walk – May 18

**Battle Creek Wildlife Area** Four birders were met at the parking lot by calling California Quail, numerous Eurasian Collared Doves as well as large numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers! It was a beautiful clear day with only light winds and the birds cooperated early, although the rising temperature slowed things down quite fast.

We were able to log in 45 species of birds on this trip! The highlights were Lazuli Buntings, and Bullock's Orioles that were found very close to the parking lot! The Red-wing Blackbirds competed with the Acorn Woodpeckers and the Eurasian Collared-Dove for the most numerous species of the trip! Although there was plenty of water in the area, water birds were scarce! Only a few Mallards and Wood Ducks were seen and Common Gallinule were the most numerous water

birds in the area! A quick stop at the Coleman Hatchery HQ hummingbird feeder did get us a look at a Black-chinned Hummingbird as well as a fair number of Anna's.

~ **Mike Carion**

**Youth bird walks in June and July of 2017** were very warm, but fruitful in spotting many birds along the bird sanctuary loop. It was difficult to spot the birds because of the dense foliage, but we were very tuned into the sounds and any slight movement we could detect. Two adults joined us in June and a small family and resident doctor joined us in July. We also encountered two other interested folks along the trail who signed up to be on our mailing list. Together we spotted a total of 16 species in June, and 9 species in July. Highlights included the massive swarms of Cliff Swallows hunting for breakfast around the Sundial bridge in June, and to our delight in July, two Great Blue Herons made a side-by-side flyby right above our heads. ~ **Roberta Winchell**

## Lassen Campout –

**July 28–29** Due to the late snows last winter, the Lassen Park Annual Outing took place at the end of July, a bit later in the season than it had been in the past. Several members of Wintu and Altacal Audubon Societies began the weekend camping out at Lost Creek campground Friday



*Black-backed Woodpecker  
photo: Larry Jordan*

night, just a few days after the road through the park was cleared of snow. As has come to be expected, the group was treated to an early evening spectacle of dozens of Common Nighthawks feeding above the trees. This

Gray Jay / photo: Larry Jordan



year however, the spectacle of Nighthawks was interrupted by a pair of Vaux's Swifts showing off their aerial acrobatics!

Saturday morning **Bill Oliver** lead a walk around Manzanita Lake where we racked up 24 species including a Northern Flicker nestling squawking out the entrance to its nesting cavity, a Merlin, and several juvenile Dippers observed in still water around the shore of the lake!

During our stay at the campsite we observed White-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Golden-crowned Kinglet to name a few.

Early Sunday morning several birders took a walk down the Noble Trail at Hat Creek where we picked up 14 species including Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker and Mountain Bluebird. It seems that the trade off for camping later in the season was not seeing nesting birds, but we were able to watch adult birds teaching their young how to forage. ~ **Larry Jordan**

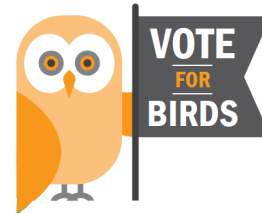
## **NEWSWORTHY EVENTS**

### **Audubon Advocacy Day**

**Vote for Birds!** Wintu Audubon sent representatives **Ashley Byers** and **Sally NeSmith** to the **Audubon Advocacy Day** June 8th in Sacramento. We met the state Audubon group and were impressed with the 60+ Audubon volunteers that attended. After the introductions and brief talk by **Keali Bright** of the Natural Resource Agency, we broke into groups and reviewed the game

plan and an overview of the issues to bring up.

We urged support for the so-called "Green Shield" to protect California's air, water, and wildlife, public lands, and scientific data and whistleblowers if federal environmental protections are weakened (SB 49, 50,52). We supported legislation that would help fund urban and rural parks and wilderness areas, protection of the Salton Sea and reaffirmed our commitment to the science of climate change. We never got to speak with the Assembly or Senator members directly but gave spiels to their staff members. It was an interesting and informative day.



### **Meeting at Congressman Brian**

**LaMalfa's office Aug 8** Four representatives from Wintu Audubon met with LaMalfa's representative **Brenda Haynes** to discuss issues important to Audubon. **Dan Greaney, Catherine Camp, Janet Wall** and **Sally NeSmith** found Ms. Haynes very receptive, engaged and also a birder! We discussed issues surrounding climate change and forward thinking policies to address habitat loss and open space incursions.

We expressed our concerns with the threats to National Monuments from the current administration.

**Want to be a Member?**  
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**events & birding information.**

**Visit our website**

**[www.wintuadubon.org](http://www.wintuadubon.org)**



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

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

**September / October 2017**



## **Feeding Habits of Our Logo, the Belted Kingfisher**

*As described in the florid Victorian Style*

“A sudden, circular plunge, accompanied by a dull, heavy splash, and the frightened, squirming fish is wrested from its native element, and swallowed in an instant. In less time than it takes to chronicle the brief event, the daring cruel deed is accomplished, and the perpetrator thereof has regained his post, and stands ready for similar adventures. Such is the greedy and unsatisfying character of his nature that, when undisturbed, he has been known to watch for hours at a time without changing his point of lookout.

“Nothing can be more interesting than the behavior of an individual who has

miscalculated his chances, and fallen wide of his mark when plunging for prey. The very impersonation of disappointment, he retires to his post, sullen and dejected. His very attitude and looks attest the war of feelings waging within his bosom. But this is of short continuance. The thoughts of past experiences come to his rescue, and he is himself again. With the successful fellow the condition is different. Joy and happiness are depicted where, before, we saw but misery and sadness.”

*(Gentry, Thomas G. 1882. Nests and eggs of birds of the United States)*