

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 2018

Wintu Audubon wishes to send our condolences to **EVERYONE** who has lost homes, loved ones and have suffered ill health, stress and breathing problems from the smoke caused by the horrific wildfires. It has also been very sad to witness so much of our beautiful forest land, bird and wildlife habitat go up in flames.

All of the fires and locally, the Carr Fire, have destroyed so many thousands of our precious trees that are instrumental in keeping our air supply healthy. It is difficult to witness all of the torched earth and devastation left behind.

We join the whole community in thanking Cal Fire, as well as the numerous other fire suppression entities and first responders, for their many hours of tiring and dangerous work trying to save homes and habitat in the path of these terrible wildfires. Wintu Audubon will join the community in attempting to help

Second Saturday Bird Walk at

Lema Ranch, Sept 8 @ 8:00 am. Lema Ranch offers various habitats: Cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open fields and oak woodlands. These varied habitats provide good birding in all seasons. Expected to be seen are the Common Gallinule, Green Heron, Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird. Meet trip leader **Larry Jordan**, at 8:00 am in the parking lot at Hemingway Road off of Shasta View. Questions: **949-5266**.

North State Climate Forum, Sept 8 @ 2 pm, First United Methodist Church, 1825 East Street, Redding

Community members are invited to an educational forum addressing the impacts of climate change including increasing temperatures, drought, and fire. Discussion will focus on steps to lead us beyond the use of damaging fossil fuels and toward 100% clean energy. The forum will feature a variety of speakers including a presentation by local Meteorologist Kris Kuyper. There will be time for audience questions as well as resource materials from local advocacy groups. The event is designed to increase awareness, better prepare our community, and summon our leaders to develop a robust climate action plan. There will be opportunities for individuals to take action as well as live music by Greg Lawson. For more information, visit the **[North State Rise for Climate Change website](#)**.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

Saturday, Sept 1 @ 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 **Jody Greaney 646-9631**, for more information. *We meet at the Monolith parking lot next to the Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay.*



Do you Amazon? Wintu Audubon has an Amazon Smile account. Designate us and we will receive a donation from funds you were going to spend anyway! Thanks!

GENERAL MEETING

Alaskan Birds

Tuesday, Sept 11 @ 7:00 pm Take a break from Redding's summer with a trip to Alaska! **Dr. Norman Kikuchi**, who has been photographing Alaskan birds for 20 years, will share his photos of the subarctic birds with us. We're pleased to enjoy these views from our northernmost state.

All-day Bird Walk, Saturday, Sept 29 Located at the North Entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park, Manzanita Lake is circumnavigated by a trail offering varied habitats: willow marshes, red fir forests, chaparral, and, of course, open water. We should see: migrating warblers, Pied-Billed Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, American Dipper, Vaux's Swift, Red-Breasted Sapsucker and high elevation species such as White-Headed Woodpecker and Stellar Jay. Meet our trip leader, **Steve Royce**, at the Kutras Lake parking area at 8:00 am. Eastern Shasta County folks may wish to join us at the Park Museum parking lot at 9:00 am.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay

Saturday, Oct 6 @ 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

"The Messenger"

Tuesday, Oct 9 @ 7:00 pm We will be screening the documentary "The Messenger," in

which Filmmaker Stu Rynard explores humanity's deep connection to birds and the effects man-made hazards have had on their populations. Join us at at the United Way, 2280 Benton Drive, Redding. The public is invited.

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Shasta College, Oct 13 @ 8:00 am

Meet our trip leaders **Connie Word** and **Linda Aldrich, 223-5341** at Shasta College's North Parking Lot at 8:00 am to join this ½-day exploration of the oak woodlands, open fields, and Stillwater Creek riparian areas. We'll look for our local resident birds, early fall migrants, and summer hold-overs. Also, this is the perfect time to find vagrants who are doing their own exploring as they meander south. Our walks are open to the public.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Arboretum, Oct 18 @ 8 am Meet trip leader **Sally NeSmith, 831-535-2888**, at the Carl & Leah McConnell gate at 8 am. From North Market Street, turn onto Arboretum Drive and veer right into the parking lot. This large natural area is accessible by a paved trail. Habitats include views of the Sacramento River, oak woodlands and open grassland. We will see Common Merganser, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted and California Towhees, Western Bluebird, and returning winter resident White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. As always, unusual species are probable.

Return of Salmon Festival at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Saturday, Oct 20



View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths and much more. Wintu Audubon will sponsor a booth. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Chad Scott, 619-852-4555, for details.

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.

A Letter from Wintu's President

Dear Wintu Audubon Members,

We are very sorry for the losses that some of you certainly suffered in the fire. We hope recovery develops as positively as possible.

As our community rebuilds and looks for ways to minimize future destructive fires, Wintu Audubon is engaging with other groups—conservation and church—to support taking a broader and longer view of our well-being in the North State. Government officials have already called for forest thinning, an action that can be done in human and bird-friendly ways, but local officials have been silent, or worse, dismissive, of dealing with the heat and drought that make our fuel load dangerous. Our multi-organization collaboration, dubbed North State Climate Action, is seeking to move our community to do its part to minimize the climate change that we are experiencing as heat, drought, and fire.

While some of that action is individual, government has to take a role to create policies for the clean energy infrastructure that currently supports fossil fuels, the prime contributors to climate change. Thanks to the extensive labor of our webmaster Larry Jordan, Wintu Audubon is hosting NS Climate Action's plea for action.

Please visit the new Climate Change page on our website.

Once you're there, I am requesting, inviting and urging you, as strongly as I can, to sign the plea. Then spread the invitation to sign, whether you do that face-to-face, or by facebook, or over the back fence, or however you do your communicating. We can do our part to minimize climate change, and there can

be little material action that is more essential for a healthy and beautiful world and our prosperity in it.

For us at Audubon, climate was a concern long before this summer, if only because the changing climate has already begun taking what promises to be a hellish toll on birds - beginning, it seems, where dry areas become increasingly parched. Now we've had the ashes dumped right on us. Let's do what we can to keep our home alive, and healthy, and beautiful.

Thank you,
Dan Greaney
President, Wintu Audubon Society

Mark your calendars for North State Giving Tuesday, November 27, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Wintu Audubon will join non-profits from around the north state to raise funds for continued conservation activities. Contributions are made on-line. Watch the newsletter: we will continue to provide updates on how to participate in this community fund-raising event. You could add this sentence to the North State Giving blurb: Last year nonprofit organizations received more than \$1 million in donations!

TRIP REPORTS



Mary Lake, May 17 Three birders assembled at Mary Lake in brilliant sunshine and mild temperatures and saw 36 species of birds. The biggest thrill was a pair of Western Tanagers with the male in brilliant breeding plumage. Also noteworthy were several Western Bluebirds seen at the cemetery on a side loop from the lake. Flycatchers were out in force including Ash-throated, Western Wood Pewee, Black Phoebe and members of the Empidonax

complex that we were unable to identify to species. Canada Geese and Mallards were shepherding fuzzy chicks, and by the many birdsongs, breeding season was in full swing. A very pleasant morning of birding for us all.
- Linda Aldrich

McArthur Burney Falls State Park Birdwalk, May 26 A stalwart group of 10 joined Park Interpreter Marlon Sloan for a walk on the Falls Loop Trail. The falls themselves are always the main attraction, but we were delighted to find a tuneful Cassin's Vireo, a first for some of us. We also saw Black-Headed Grosbeaks, Steller's Jays, a Raven, a Dipper, a Turkey Vulture, a Hummingbird and some Tree Swallows.

We were concerned that the Black Swifts, who nest behind the falls each year, had not arrived, but toward the end of the loop trail saw two of the Swifts circling the pool at the base of the falls. We were also delighted to view an Osprey nest, since the tree near the loop trail, where the Osprey had nested for years, fell two winters ago. It was exciting to see the nest in its new tree, complete with the head of an Osprey inside.

After lunch at the Visitor's Center, we walked down the Rim Trail to the tune of Robins and Black-Headed Grosbeaks, then saw another active Osprey nest near the trail and a lone Junco. Some in the group spotted a White-Headed Woodpecker. Closer to the lake, Cassin's Vireos and Black-Throated Gray Warblers sang abundantly, but remained high and elusive. On the lake, nine ducklings huddled close to their Common Merganser mama, sometimes hopping aboard for a piggyback ride. Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Chickadees, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, a Tanager and Brewer's Blackbirds were also present. We also spotted a pair of White-Breasted Nuthatches and a male Hairy Woodpecker bringing food to their nest cavities and were able to peer into a distant Eagle's nest, where an adult stood by at least two chicks.

A bonus of the trip was getting to share our optics with a passing family group, who got to

view the stunning blue of a Tree Swallow tending its nest. On our walk back, a Creeper flew to the ground, contemplated a mud-puddle bath, but ultimately declined.
- Dan Greaney

Audubon Advocacy Day, June 20

Ashley Byers and **Sally NeSmith** represented Wintu at the **Audubon Advocacy Day**. Forty chapter members, representing 19 chapters from across the state made the trip to Sacramento, joined by 27 Audubon California staff members; 14 groups attended 57 meetings with Democrats and Republicans.

Assemblyman Ash Kalra, sponsor of the AB 2627 California Migratory Bird Treaty Act, came to give us a warm up talk on the importance of this bill over our bagels & fruit breakfast. This bill is a reaction to the Trump Administration's re-interpretation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a 100-year old bill that has protected

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

OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228
Recording Secretary: Catherine Camp 337-6874
Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Carroll 246-3634

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Webmaster/Publicity: Larry Jordan 949-5266
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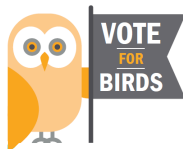
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Bea Curry, Esther Cox, Bill Oliver,
George Horn, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith

and saved numerous species (Bald Eagle and Sandhill Cranes among others). The current re-interpretation says that ‘accidental’ spills and ‘incidental’ pollutions are not covered by protections of the MBTA. This bill strengthens California’s commitment to the original intent of the MBTA.

Our group met with staff members for Representative for **Senator Ted Gaines**, **Assemblyman Brian Dahle** (1st District), and **Assemblyman Kevin Kiley** (2nd District). The main bill of concern for Audubon this year was AB 2627 (Kalra): Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Other bills we talked to representatives about were: AB 2054 (Gonzalez-Fletcher) Agricultural pests; shot hole borer beetles; AB 2864 (Limon) Coastal resources: oil spills; AB 2614 (Carrillo) Outdoor Experiences: Disadvantaged Youth. We talked up SB 720 (Allen): Environmental Education which strengthens California’s commitment to ensure that all public school students have the opportunity to become environmentally literate.

It was an interesting view in of how the government operates and makes me scratch my head in amazement that anything ever gets done!! But it also made me appreciate those folks who do commit to public service and are dedicated to making democracy work. It is not an easy job.



The Lassen National Park Outing on July 27 was obviously hampered by the North State fires and the fears of the community that their homes were in possible jeopardy. I drove up to Lassen Park on Friday afternoon to bird Manzanita Lake and see who showed up at



Photo by Larry Jordan

Lost Creek Campground.

There were several Altacal members, as well as a birder from the coast and one from Sacramento at Lost Creek Campground, but no one from the Redding area made it.

During my first walk around Manzanita Lake I had a rare sighting of a juvenile Red-naped Sapsucker and reported it to the ranger station. Other species found at the lake were Cassin's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Hermit's Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler, and lots of Vaux's Swifts flying overhead, but I never found any woodpeckers!

The Altacal group hiked the King's Creek Fall trail and found several Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. They also reported a Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon near the visitor center as well as a Black-backed Woodpecker around Summit Lake. Of course, since I wasn't there, they also found active Pileated Woodpeckers at the campground all weekend.

- Larry Jordan



Keep current of upcoming events & birding information.

**Visit our website
wintuadubon.org**

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September / October 2018

**GLOBAL DAY
OF ACTION
SEPT 8TH 2018**

**RISE FOR CLIMATE
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**for more info visit
riseforclimate.org**