



# 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 2019

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

#### Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Saturday, September 7th @ 9:00 am

We invite beginners of all ages to our introductory walks on the first Saturday of each month. The walks begin at 9am and meet in the parking lot near the Monolith structure at the end of the Sheraton Hotel. Binoculars and field guides will be available to loan. Call **Dan Greaney, 276-9693**, for more information.

#### General Meeting - The Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada, Wednesday, September 11th @ 7:00 pm

The west coast wilds contain worlds of beauty, and there's nothing like a good walk for an exhilarating and up-close experience of it. One of Wintu Audubon's own, **Zach Winchell**, took that long walk along the Pacific Crest Trail last summer, from Mexico to Canada. Come share a view of the adventure through his photographs!

**Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM at One Safe Place.**

All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

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

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch, September 14th @ 8:00 am

Lema Ranch offers various habitats: Cattail-rimmed ponds, several lakes, open fields and oak woodlands. These varied habitats provide good birding in all seasons. Possibilities include Common Gallinule, Green Heron, Lark Sparrow, Western Bluebird, Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey. Meet trip leader **Larry Jordan**, at 8:00 am in the parking lot at Hemingway Road off of Shasta View. Questions: **949-5266**.



#### Local Weekday Bird Walk at John Reginato River Access Trail, Thursday, September 19th @ 8:00 am

This trail leaves the parking lot of the South Bonnyview 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 hope to see a variety of waterfowl and possibly migrating passerines. This ½-day walk is open to the public and all birding skill levels are welcome. Contact **Larry Jordan** 949-5266 for more info.

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Lassen Volcanic National Park, Saturday, September 28th @ 8:00 am**

Fall birds at Manzanita Lake! Lassen Park Biologist Mike Magnuson will lead a walk around Manzanita Lake, where we can expect nutcrackers, woodpeckers, and always a surprise from a variety of gleaners, raptors, and finches. Possibilities include Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch and Golden-crowned Kinglet! Pack a lunch and **meet at Kutas Park at 7am to carpool, or meet Mike at the Loomis Museum parking lot at 8am.**



**2019 – 2020  
OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS &  
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

**OFFICERS**

**President:** Dan Greaney 276-9693  
**Vice-President:** John Winchell 241-1448  
**Treasurer:** Beth Brockman 227-4228  
**Recording Secretary:** Catherine Camp 337-6874  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Jeannette Carroll 246-3634

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Programs:** OPEN  
**Education:** Terri Lhuillier 515-3504  
**Conservation:** Janet Wall 547-1189  
Bruce Webb 515-5324  
**Newsletter:** Larry Jordan 472-31311  
**Webmaster/Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131  
**Membership:** George Horn 244-0581  
**Field Trips:** OPEN

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Harvey Carroll, Linda Aldrich, Bill Oliver, Connie Word, Sally NeSmith, Roberta Winchell

## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**Family/Beginner Bird Walk at Turtle Bay, Saturday, October 5th @ 9:00 am**

We invite beginners of all ages to our introductory walks on the first Saturday of each month. The walks begin at 9am and meet in the parking lot near the Monolith structure at the end of the Sheraton Hotel. Binoculars and field guides will be available to loan. Call **Terri Lhuillier, 515-3504**, for more information.

**General Meeting - The Birds of Cambodia, Wednesday, October 9th @ 7pm**

We all get to see our North American birds. Some of us slip down to South America, and few make it over to Europe or Africa. But rarely do we see the birds of Asia! Andrea Claassen, now working for the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, will share the birds of Cambodia with us. Come join us for this view of the other side of the world.

**Second Saturday Bird Walk at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Saturday October 12th @ 8 am**

We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds hoping to find migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines.

Assemble at the Treatment Plant's locked gate at the end of Metz Road at 8:00 **OR** meet at



Kutas Park at 7:30 am to carpool with your leader, **Larry Jordan**. This is a 1/2-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good. Directions to the Clear Creek Plant: Take Hwy 273 and look for River Ranch Road after crossing Clear Creek. Cross over the Railroad tracks and turn left on Eastside Rd. Entrance is on Metz Road on the right.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk, Thursday,  
October 17th @ 8:00 am at Turtle Bay  
Exploration Park Arboretum**

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. Acorn Woodpeckers, Anna's Hummingbirds, towhees, some raptors, and warblers are always present. We'll look for early fall migrants and check out the waterfowl along the river.

**Wintu Audubon Outing to Ash Creek State  
Wildlife Area, Saturday, October 26th @ 7:00  
am**

Ash Creek is one of the most remote, least improved, and most pristine of all of California Department of Fish and Wildlife Areas. Located in the heart of Big Valley, these approximately 14,400 acres preserve freshwater wetlands created by the seasonal flow of six streams, including Ash Creek. In addition to 3,000 acres of natural wetlands, other natural communities upland sagebrush. Highlights of our trip last year were 100 Sandhill Cranes and on previous visits, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcons and Sage Grouse. Bring lunch and water. The weather may be cool so bring warm clothes. And remember that this is a State Wildlife Area and **an entrance permit is required**. Meet your leader **Bill Oliver 941-7741** at 7:00 am sharp at Kutras Park on Park Marina Drive to carpool.

Purchase a one day pass for \$4.38 or annual pass for \$24.72 at the Redding CDFW office at 601 Locust Street or online for a few cents more at <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>

**Return of the Salmon Festival at the  
Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Saturday,  
October 19th from 9am to 3pm**

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** or **John Winchell, 945-8342** for details!

## TRIP REPORTS

**Beginner/Family Bird Walk at Turtle Bay,  
Saturday, May 4th**

It was a warm June morning for birdwatching, but 3 determined birders joined me for a lovely Saturday morning Audubon birdwalk.

Temperatures were already in the 80's when we met at 9:00am, but we ventured out to see what we could find. We started out along the ponds on the 44 Trail & saw some of the usual suspects including a few Spotted Towhees, California Scrub-Jays, Tree Swallows, Anna's Hummingbirds, Canada Geese, and Mallards. We heard & saw several Yellow-billed Magpies who recently built a nest near the eagle's nest and seem to be thriving in their new home. We headed down the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary Trail toward the river & saw several Turkey Vultures and an Osprey soaring overhead with a fish, and a Common Merganser in the river. The temperatures were warming up & the bird activity was at a standstill so we looped around through the middle trail & called it a day!

- **Terri Lhuillier**





### **Oregon Gulch Walk, Saturday May 11th**

The scrub-country of southwest Redding had plenty to hide, and like a striptease, she showed only some of it: thirty-nine species. The showy frills included the song and dance of Western Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers, some striking Bluebirds, aerial displays of Acorn Woodpeckers, and the riparian flight of ten Mallards, all to a Grosbeak serenade. Smaller birds initially included foraging Bushtits, Titmice, Nuthatches, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and a staid Wood Pewee. Then the show picked up. A few highlights: Chipping and Lark Sparrows, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, four migrating Townsend's Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, two singing Wrentits, and an elusive Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The half-heard songs and half-seen shadows that remained unidentified beckon for another trip to Oregon Gulch!

- **Dan Greaney**



### **Local Weekday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Arboretum, Thursday, May 16th**

A blustery, windy morning did not deter seven birders. The Arboretum was partially closed off due to laying down new irrigation systems, so we meandered through the main path, then walked over Sulphur Creek to the loop behind Turtle Bay School where the rain started and cut our trip short. We still observed 28 species. Raptors included a Red-shouldered Hawk, a ragged looking Red-tail Hawk, an Osprey and a Cooper's Hawk. After hearing the delightful call of a Bewick's Wren for a long time, we finally sighted one, then another. Tree, Cliff, and Violet-green Swallows were on the wing by the hundreds lending their chattering songs to the wind. A Wood Pewee and an Ash-throated Flycatcher were special treats. We were all happy to sight several Phainopepla of the Silky Flycatcher family. Western Kingbirds and a few Robins were sighted as we scurried back to the cars through the rain.- **Sally NeSmith**

### **Wintu Audubon Outing to Burney Falls, Saturday, May 25th**

Seven birders gathered on a day when the threatened rain never materialized. 26 species were identified in a loop trail walk around the falls and a rim trail walk to Lake Britton after lunch in the picnic grounds. It was exciting to see the Black Swifts who nest behind the falls in late spring. We saw 9 flying high above the falls pool. A Vaux's Swift patrolled Burney Creek below the falls. The Osprey were nesting in an area visible from the rim trail, and there were 4 White-Headed Woodpeckers and 1 Pileated Woodpecker seen. We saw 3 Pacific Wrens, one was kind enough to stay visible long enough for the scope to focus while he was singing his heart out. There was also a spring bouquet of warblers: Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Hermit. We had a long and satisfying day in this lovely Park.

- **Catherine Camp**



## Lassen Volcanic National Park Campout, July 26th thru 28th

Thirteen lucky birders enjoyed a very comfortable and leisurely stroll around Manzanita Lake on Saturday morning tallying 33 species. After spotting four Vaux's Swifts flying overhead, we took a short side trail down to Manzanita Creek where a very cooperative American Dipper gave excellent views to several participants, some seeing this exceptional species for the first time! Western Wood-Pewees seemed to be everywhere as we counted nine in all, not to be outdone by eleven Yellow-rumped Warblers. A Bald Eagle and Osprey were seen chasing each other above as several Tree Swallows foraged the skies a bit closer. Four Warbling Vireo were spotted as well as Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Hermit Warblers.



Back at the campsite several adventurous campers decided to try to find "Lost" Creek. Heading through the woods with nothing but determination and a topo map, more than a half dozen brave birders climbed over downed trees and, for the most part avoided danger, to discover that Lost Creek which was crystal clear and freezing cold. In addition to finding a Dipper in the creek we spotted several birds on the way including a Cooper's Hawk and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

On Sunday morning few of us searched the Noble Trail burned area including Hat Creek for Black-backed Woodpeckers but found none. We did however find Mountain Bluebirds, a Wilson's Warbler and a Red-breasted Sapsucker!

- Larry Jordan

Federal rollbacks of the Endangered Species Act are weakening protections for birds and imperiled wildlife. Keep California strong in the fight to uphold the law here at home.

[Urge the California State Assembly to vote YES to protect the Endangered Species Act](#)



*The 23rd Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium  
November 21st thru 24th*

Judged by many as one of the premier birding events in the West, the CVBS is hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club. We have well-known speakers, multiple field trips, artists' displays, vendors and birders. The number of participants usually reaches near complete capacity so plan to register early if you want to attend. For more information contact Susie Nishio at [cvbsreg@gmail.com](mailto:cvbsreg@gmail.com)

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



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**September / October 2019**

## **27TH ANNUAL RETURN OF THE SALMON FESTIVAL**

**Saturday October 19th at the Coleman National  
Fish Hatchery**



View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information and much more. Wintu Audubon will staff a booth from 9am to 3pm. Contact Bea Currie, 243-3955 for details for lending a hand!