



# ***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**

**October 2023**



We have lots of incredible activities coming up this month, including an opportunity to enjoy an evening with our own Erika Iacona for a night of owl banding on Friday, the 6th of October. You need to contact Erika to secure your spot by the end of this week! See below.

If you missed Part 1 of Larry Jordan's favorite bird photos last month, you can watch the video on our YouTube page here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WintuAudubonSociety/videos>

Larry will be presenting "Part 2" of some of his favorite bird photos at our October zoom meeting. Here is the invitation.

Wintu Audubon Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Part 2 of "Some of Larry Jordan's Favorite Bird Photos"

Time: Oct 11, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84479536064>

Meeting ID: 890 7591 9908

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Your contributions support:

- Multiple monthly bird walks September thru May
- Monthly presentations September thru May
- Lassen National Park birding campout
- Redding area nestbox placement and monitoring
- Burrowing Owl nest placement and monitoring
- Western Bluebird Climate Watch Surveys
- Audubon California Advocacy Day participation
- Bird safety input on local wind power projects and other developments
- Classroom outreach to elementary school teachers and students
- Tricolored Blackbird Project
- Programs at the Whole Earth and Watershed Festivals, including youth nestbox building
- Programs at the Return of the Salmon Festival
- Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Project

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! These are our recent generous donors:

Brian Sorrick, Tricia Ford and Marti Weidert

Donations can be made either through our [PayPal link](#) or by check at Wintu Audubon, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533



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## PROGRAM PRESENTERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to present a program at one of our General Meetings? Do you know someone who might be interested?

Wintu Audubon Society offers an hour-long presentation on Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May at 7:00 in the evening. Since our membership is scattered widely throughout Shasta County, we have found it easier to reach more people by holding Zoom meetings since the Covid pandemic.

Topics can vary a great deal. Would you like to share photos and information from your latest birding trip or birding festival? Do you know someone who is involved in a conservation effort? It doesn't have to be just about birds!

The following evenings are currently available for presentations:

November 8, 2023 \* December 13, 2023 \* January 10, 2024 \* March 12, 2024  
\* April 10, 2024 \* May 8, 2024

Your ideas for presentations are also valuable. Please contact Education Chair Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) with your input.

## THIS SATURDAY'S TRIP TO RED BLUFF RECREATION AREA



Please join us on a journey with many trails at this very diverse public land with no fees. Sacramento River bisects 488 acres at this Recreation Area of riparian forest, flowering grasslands, wetlands, and oak woodlands, providing very diverse nature viewing experiences. This location is Tehama Region's number one eBird's hotspot. This is great home for many varieties of Sparrows, Warblers, Wrens,

Woodpeckers, Waterfowl, Wading Birds, and Shorebirds. Yellow-billed Magpies and Phainopeplas are often found here year-round. Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 7:30am. We will meet at the parking lot at the south end of Sale Lane at the Sacramento River Discovery Center. Meet at Kutrass parking lot at 6:45 am to carpool. Map: <https://tinyurl.com/mwsxsb2a>

## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**Note:** If you have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 10 days you must provide a certificate of vaccination or negative test results no longer than 72 hours prior to and as a requirement to participating in these events.

### Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding - October 6th @ 6:00 pm



Curious about Northern Saw-whet owl migration and monitoring techniques?! And/or do you love car camping?! Join us under the stars on Friday, October 6th for a night of small owl banding and car camping at Lassen National Park! Erika Iacona will lead us through a night at Shasta Counties Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring station with camping at Manzanita Lake Campground to follow. Banding occurs after dark, beginning a half hour after sunset and four hours thereafter. Camping is not a requirement to attend the banding event, only an option. Camping space is limited! This gathering is completely outdoors, in the dark, in cold temperatures. Event is weather permitting and subject to cancellation if precipitation is predicted. **Please**

**contact Erika at [eiacona14@gmail.com](mailto:eiacona14@gmail.com) before September 30th to confirm your spot!** If you spend the night at Manzanita Lake, you can stop at Lake McCumber for the 9am event just down the road!

## Lake McCumber - October 7th @ 9:00 am



On Saturday October 7th we will be birding Lake McCumber with our trip leader David Garza. Meet in the parking lot adjacent to the Dam at 9:00 am. We will be looking for late summer visitors, early waterfowl and shorebirds and the usual forest residents. From Redding, head east on Highway 44 and turn left (north) on Lake McCumber Road, about 7 miles east of Shingletown. The Dam and

parking lot are about 2 miles north on Lake McCumber Road. Bring a lunch, daypack and water, spotting scope for long range birds across the lake, dress for changeable weather and some rocky terrain, rain cancels.

Map: <https://tinyurl.com/jdu9uuju>

## Newville Ponds – Burris Creek at Black Butte Lake Recreation Area - October 14th @ 7:30 am



We will meet at the parking lot for Newville Ponds which is located on Newville Road west of Stoney Creek Bridge. <https://goo.gl/maps/C78SVShicsrhr2QR7>

Why would you want to visit these two unique locations that are part of the US Army Corps of Engineer's Black Butte Recreation Area? For the birds of course, and in particular, vast numbers of waterbirds. Newville Ponds,

North of the lake, are fed water through Black Butte Lakes Dam system that regulates the flow of Stoney Creek. This time of year, the dam release can be large which allows water releases to spread out across several acres creating ideal habitat for many waterbirds of many varieties. Burris Creek, primary access of Black Butte Lake's Southern Shoreline, begins to recede in the fall where the shore begins to widen at a very shallow section of the lake. This too becomes ideal for waterbirds. Burris Creek also has the added feature of large dense willow trees, flowering plants, and prime oak woodlands for those non-waterbird species. Entrance fees are \$6.00, but federal annual and lifetime passes are honored at this Recreation Area. We always recommend carpooling and instruction regarding where to meet might be available on website. Daniel Bye will lead this Bird Walk, please bring insect repellent, lunch or snack and plenty of water, Burris Creek may require some walking and the ground conditions vary from wet to dry, so please be prepared.



## Return of the Salmon Festival - October 21st from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Join us as we celebrate the annual Return of the Salmon Festival at Coleman National Fish Hatchery, 24411 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd. in Anderson. This family-friendly event is free to the public and will have over 50 booths with information and activities. View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths and much more. Wintu Audubon will be there with a booth, handing out information on birds and the chapter and engaging families with hands-on

activities. If you can spare a couple hours to help staff our booth, please contact Education Chair Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com).

## Manzanita Lake - October 28th @ 9:00 am



We will be hiking around Manzanita Lake looking for migratory and fall forest species before the cold sets in. Manzanita Lake is located adjacent to the north entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park, approximately 48 miles east of Redding off of Highway 44. For those travelling from Redding you can meet at the Kutrass Lake gravel parking lot at 7:00 am to pool or caravan, otherwise meet at the Lassen

Park Loomis Museum Parking Lot at 8:00 am. Wear sturdy shoes and layers in anticipation of changeable weather, bring a lunch/snack. Entrance fees for Lassen Volcanic National Park are \$30 per vehicle or free with Annual/Whiskeytown/Golden Access etc passes. Restrooms are located at the Loomis Museum complex. Rain/Snow cancels.

## TRIP REPORTS



### Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on September 9th

Eleven determined birders found 52 bird species on a four hour excursion around the ponds at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The morning began with a cool, clear day with Yellow Warblers spotted before

reaching the gate to the ponds! The dabbling ducks were represented by Wood Ducks and Mallards of course, but there were also four American Widgeon and a Gadwall. The fall migrants we hoped to find seemed to be everywhere. Several Willow Flycatchers were spotted as well as Cedar Waxwings and three Warbling Vireos. Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers were abundant. The warblers were topped off with a single Black-throated Gray.

### **Lema Ranch on September 16th**



Some broken cloud cover cooled off an early fall morning allowing seven birders to enjoy a three-mile stroll around Lema Ranch. Despite low waterfowl and migrant numbers, the group managed to tally 43 species. Highlights included good looks at a Cooper's Hawk chasing a squirrel, a beautiful Lincoln's Sparrow perched in the cattails, and a family of Common Gallinules working the pond edges.

### **Nur Pon Open Space on September 23rd**



Ten birders enjoyed the first signs of fall as they shivered in the cool morning air and observed a few leaves beginning to turn color. A bonanza of Yellow Warblers and one Red-breasted Nuthatch hinted at the flood of migratory birds soon to come. The photographers in the group were pleased by the cooperation of two Spotted Sandpipers, a Great Blue Heron, a female Wood Duck and others for some great

shots. Forty-five species were found on this fun trip.

