



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**

November 2022



Join us for a busy November including four great bird outings and an excellent presentation from Dr. Walt Koenig. Walt was a Research Zoologist at Hastings Reservation, a field station located in the upper Carmel Valley run by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley, from 1982 to 2008. He subsequently was a Senior Scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York, from 2008 to 2016. He retired in 2016 and returned to upper Carmel Valley, where he currently studies acorn production by California oaks and continues to contribute to the Acorn Woodpecker study.

Acorn woodpeckers, best known for their unique habit of storing acorns by the thousands in special structures known as “granaries,” exhibit one of the most complex social systems of any bird. Family groups of this species, sometimes numbering a dozen or more birds, contain multiple breeders of both sexes, a rare phenomenon called “polygynandry,” along with young from prior years that serve as “helpers-at-the-nest.” Based on a study of this species at Hastings Reservation in Monterey County, Dr. Koenig will explain some of the strikingly cooperative and surprisingly competitive behaviors of this species that he and his colleagues have discovered during their 50+ year field study.

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

Topic: Dr. Walt Koenig, Cooperation and Conflict in the World of Acorn Woodpeckers

Time: Nov 9, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85196519044](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85196519044)

Meeting ID: 851 9651 9044

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,85196519044# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,85196519044# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 851 9651 9044

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85196519044>

Reminder: last year the chapter moved from subscription to donation-based membership. At the beginning of each new operating year in September we encourage members to donate - suggested amount \$20-\$30 - either through our PayPal link

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NVKBCKUYKZPNE

or by check at Wintu Audubon, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533. If you haven't yet donated this year, please check our membership page to see what your donation supports. Thank you so much!

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Note: All participants, ages 5 and older, must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours and sign a waiver prior to all field trips.

Birding Red Bluff Recreation Area - November 5th @ 8:00 am



Please join trip leader Dan Bye 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 has the highest species count on eBird's Tehama list of hotspots. 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.

Cascade Community Park Bird Walk - November 10th @ 9:00 am



Join Education Chair Tricia Ford for a bird walk around Cascade Park on Thursday, November 10th at 9:00 am. This 27-acre park is located at the end of Girvan Road east of Highway 273 and borders the Sacramento River at the confluence of Olney Creek. The paved trail has several dirt paths, providing access to the river and the mouth of the creek. This will be the second in a series of eight walks, one per month from October

through May, exploring bird watching in the parks and trails operated by the City of Redding. The theme of this walk will be the importance of mistletoe to birds of the oak woodland. The easy 1-mile walk will take about two hours. There are no restrooms. Bring drinking water and a snack. Hiking boots are recommended for the dirt trails. For more information, email triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com

Fall River Valley Birding - November 12th @ 7:00 am



This is a full day's trip. Always a high species destination, the Valley is a great place to see wintering raptors, various waterbirds and Sandhill Cranes. We will spend a few minutes at the Pit River Falls and Canyon Vista Point, and another quick stop at Fall River Mills Cemetery, on the way to Fall River Lake. Depending on how long we spend at the lake, we will have lunch or head up to Rat Farm Road and Big Lake for lunch. Meet at Kutras Park at 7:00 am sharp to carpool. Be ready for a full day with a lunch and water. Dress for changing weather. East-county participants can join the group at either the Park and Ride at the intersection of Hwy 299 and 89 at 8 am or the Fall River Vista at 8:30 am. Rarities are possible! Contact Larry for more information at webmaster@wintuadubon.org

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - November 26th @ 7:00 am



Join us at the City of Redding Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant at 2200 Metz Road off of Hwy 273 for a sunrise stroll around the ponds and Sacramento River. We will be looking for wintering waterfowl waders as well as riparian and oak woodland passerines. Dress for chilly and windy weather on a 2-hour flat terrain hike, bring water and snacks. Rain cancels the trip.

TRIP REPORTS

World Migratory Bird Day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area on October 8th



Three lucky birders spent a beautiful day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area finding over 60 species, including a group of around 400 Sandhill Cranes just outside the refuge, spotted on the way in. Highlights included the teal trifecta: Cinnamon, Green-winged and Blue-winged, as well as the resident Black-crowned Night-Heron roost, and an American Bittern! Warblers included Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and a Common Yellowthroat! Of course there were hundreds of Greater White-fronted Geese and nearly 100 Snow Geese as well.

Return of the Salmon Festival on October 15th



Several Wintu Audubon members helped out at the Return of the Salmon Festival, including our president, Rebeca Ladron de Guevara, George Horn, Harvey and Jeannette Carol, Tricia Ford and Clinton Kane, Randy Bush and Larry Jordan. There were hundreds of people, many with their kids in tow, enjoying the sunny day, observing the salmon in the river and checking out the many informational booths. We must have made nearly a hundred California Quail calls! Also, many of the kids enjoyed the bird coloring pages that Tricia brought which included photos of the birds and, of course, crayons.

Nur Pon Open Space on October 20th



Twenty birders enjoyed a crisp fall morning on the Sacramento River while looking for “Signs of Fall,” the theme of the walk. Yellow-rumped Warblers put on their “Butter Butt” show as they arrived to spend the cool months in the Redding area. We found Acorn Woodpeckers harvesting the oaks and placing their winter food supply in granaries of dead limbs and trunks. Large flocks of

European Starlings were forming, Northern Flickers were declaring their fall feeding territories, and sparrows and juncos were trickling in. A Great Egret posed regally in a cottonwood for the photographers in the group and a distant Mute Swan surprised us. We ended up with 43 species for the walk.

Birding Manzanita and Summit Lakes on October 22nd



On a brisk late October Saturday that saw fog, clouds, snow and sunshine, four Wintu Audubon members birded Manzanita and Summit Lakes in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Highlights of the day, including the evolving weather and vistas, were close looks at a Williamson’s Sapsucker, Canada Jays, American Dippers and scores of Fox Sparrows. Raptors were represented by a Kestrel, a Cooper’s and two Red-tailed Hawks, and a Bald Eagle. Picidae checked in with White-headed, Hairy, Downy Woodpeckers and the aforementioned Williamson’s Sapsucker. We dipped on the Black-backed unfortunately. Total Counts were 27 Species at Manzanita Lake and 16 at Summit Lake.

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If you haven't visited the website lately you may not realize that our past president, Dan Greaney, continues to write BirdWord articles every month, found on our Blog Page: <https://www.wintuaudubon.org/blog/>! The articles are always interesting and informative. The current article is titled "Ravens – gotta love ‘em, but—"