



# 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

## February 2022

### HISTORY OF WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY



This program, prepared by Bill Oliver, a founding member of the organization in 1976, covers the interests and issues that prompted the formation of the club. He reports an active history of field trips, including a report of booming Sage Grouse. He talks of seeking and receiving approval from the Wintu Tribe for the use of their name. He will talk about the annual Christmas Bird Count. He will relay the many projects that have brought people to Wintu Audubon over the years: bird nest boxes, Burrowing Owl habitat, an Osprey nesting platform, science projects and presentations, and many other collaborative activities. Bill will be joined by Bea Currie and George Horn, long time members of Wintu and partners with Bill in the development of the organization over more than 40 years.

Wednesday, February 9th at 7PM - Link:  
[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85711821966](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85711821966)

When you login to our Zoom meetings you will be placed into a waiting room until the meeting begins. Participants are muted upon entry but are welcome to unmute themselves before the meeting begins. Once the presentation begins, you can type a question into chat. A moderator will control the order of your questions. The link to the presentation can also be found on the calendar page of our website.

All of our presentations will be posted on our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/WintuAudubonSociety> where you can also find several bird videos. We are also posting Zoom presentations from several other organizations on our calendar page here: <https://www.wintuadubon.org/calendar/> - including Altcal Audubon, Redbud Audubon, Redwood Region Audubon, Mendocino Coast Audubon, Peregrine Audubon, Plumas Audubon and Golden Gate Audubon.

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

**Wintu Audubon Society General Meetings  
are held on the second Wednesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

Zoom meeting invitations are sent to all folks that are on our email list and listed on our Calendar page



**FOR THE LATEST WINTU AUDUBON  
SOCIETY NEWS AND BIRDING  
INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
AT**

**[HTTPS://  
WWW.WINTUAUDUBON.ORG](https://www.wintu-audubon.org)**

**TURTLE BAY BIRD WALK, FEBRUARY 5TH  
@ 8:00 AM**

We will begin the walk from the monolith down the hi-way 44 trail to scan the ponds for ducks and other water birds, and look for the Bald Eagles. Then come back to the turtle bay bird sanctuary trail and along the Sacramento River to the Sundial Bridge. Several species of ducks, songbirds, raptors and probably Yellow-billed Magpies are expected. Meet at the monolith parking area at the south end of the Sheraton Hotel at 8am sharp to meet your trip leader, Larry Jordan.



**WINTU/BLM FIELD TRIP TO HOG LAKE,  
FEBRUARY 19TH @ 7:30 AM**

Wintu Audubon will join BLM staff on a full day trip to Hog Lake. Join David Byers and Tim Kashuba to explore this new destination for Wintu Audubon members. Recently seen species include Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Yellowlegs and Lewis's Woodpecker! This walk includes a relatively flat 1/2 mile walk to the lake and another 1/2 to 3/4 mile to explore some of the vistas to the north. Bring your lunch and water. Participants are required to have proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and sign waiver. Meet at the Hog Lake Parking Lot at 7:30 am, approximately 10 miles east of Red Bluff on SR 36, [40.27898](tel:40.27898), [-122.12182](tel:-122.12182).

***All participants on our outings are  
required to have proof of full COVID-19  
vaccination and sign a waiver.***

Covid19 continues to spread in our community, so please get vaccinated and take appropriate precautions to protect yourself and others. The complete Shasta County COVID information can be found at <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/ready/covid-19/overview>.

**Currently only half the people in Shasta  
County are fully vaccinated**



Here is the updated "Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings" <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>.



### **TURTLE BAY ARBORETUM WALK, FEBRUARY 26TH @ 8:00 AM**

Explore the 25 acres of landscaped gardens featuring both native and nonnative plants for a wide variety of birds that you can see in your own yards and neighborhood parks, including wintering sparrows like the Golden-crowned and White-crowned. Meet at 8:00 am at 1125 Arboretum Drive at the main gate near the native plant nursery. We will spend about two hours walking less than two miles on accessible, hard-pack dirt trails. There are bathrooms located at each end of the arboretum.



Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

## **TRIP REPORTS - from Tim Kashuba**

### **Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge**



Watching a fly-by of an immature Bald Eagle

On Saturday, January 8th we inaugurated 2022 with a field trip led by Bill Oliver to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Nine Wintu members carpoled to the reserve just South of Willows for a brisk, partly cloudy auto and walking tour. Larry Jordan kept the four-vehicle procession on point with walkie talkie play-by-play of the sights. Shelly Cerasaro kept the crew updated on mammal identification. As a group we tallied 62 species (tens of thousands of individuals counting the geese) at the reserve, highlights including a wisp of 20 to 30 Wilson's Snipes near the visitor's center parking lot, close looks at many immature and mature Bald Eagles throughout the complex, two Great Horned Owls and a feeding Red-shouldered Hawk along the eastern side of the auto tour. Raptors were well represented with Bald Eagle, Prairie and Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Turkey Vulture. We tried to turn a Bald Eagle into a Golden Eagle to no avail. Non-geese waterfowl were in good variety but the numbers seem down from recent years. We dipped on some of the regulars such as Ring-necked Pheasant, Dunlin and Long-billed Dowitcher. Trip report photos by Tim Kashuba.

## Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant



The second 2022 Wintu Audubon field trip was held on Saturday, January 15th at the Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Larry Jordan led a group of seven birders on a circumnavigation of the settling ponds hitting the various habitats on a clear cool Shasta County morning. A total of 57 species were tallied by the group, which started the morning birding along the oak woodland habitat on the west side of the settling ponds. The usual passerines were evident along the hillside with a bright flock of Lesser Goldfinches decorating a leafless Valley Oak. Raptors were well represented patrolling the dry grassy ponds throughout the plant with Turkey Vultures, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, a cooperative American Kestrel, and Bald Eagles. Say's and Black Phoebes were also evident hawking bugs as the day warmed. Pond 5 had a significant water level yielding a Cackling Goose, Pond 6 had shallow water habitat yielding a Least Sandpiper amongst nine or so Killdeer.

The riverine habitat along the East side of the Plant property was busy with gulls, waterfowl, and waders. Notable sighting along the Sacramento River included American White Pelican, Tundra and Mute Swans, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser and Ruddy Ducks.

Thank you to all who attended and to Larry for hosting the group. We look forward to returning in the Spring when the peeps start showing up.

## Lema Ranch



Recently retired Tricia Ford led our third 2022 field trip through Lema Ranch on January 22nd. Ten birders, including some new faces, ventured out on a windy clear and cool Saturday. Larry Jordan kept track of the sightings. Tricia led the group on a southerly loop from Mule Pond to Leah's Pond and then back via Lema Pond. The group tallied 35 species for the morning. Most birds seemed to be hunkered down in wind protected arms of the ponds and low in the trees along the edges of the meadows. Lema Pond had waterfowl mostly along the north shore hidden from the wind, three Canvasbacks were a nice find here.

Thank you to all who attended and to Tricia for a great presentation on Lema Ranch and showing the folks around the windy environs. Perhaps we can return when the Western Bluebirds are nesting.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Judee and Bill Adams first attended the Biggest Week in American Birding in May of 2013. They were so blown away with the abundance and variety of birds seen, that they have returned 4 more times. They will be giving us all the particulars and sharing pictures of the gorgeous birds they saw on those trips like these!



You can get some excellent insight into what you can see at Magee Marsh from their website: <https://www.mageemarsh.org/>

So far we have two outings scheduled for March, a hike up Dye Creek Preserve on the 19th and a walk around Clover Creek Preserve on the 26th. We are also contemplating a trip to the Shaffer Lek to witness the Greater Sage Grouse strutting their stuff possibly the 12th!



## OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

### OFFICERS

**President:** Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara

**Vice-President:** OPEN

**Treasurer:** Beth Brockman 227-4228

**Recording Secretary:** Jaci White

**Corresponding Secretary:** Jeannette Carroll  
246-3634

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Programs:** Catherine Camp

**Education:** OPEN

**Conservation:** Janet Wall 547-1189  
Bruce Webb 515-5324

**Newsletter:** Larry Jordan 472-3131

**Webmaster/Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131

**Membership:** George Horn 244-0581

**Field Trips:** Tim Kashuba

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Carroll, Dan Greaney, Marti Weidert, Bill Oliver, Connie Word, Bea Currie, Erika Iacona, Roberta Winchell and John Winchell

A very heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all who have donated to Wintu Audubon Society this past year as we changed our local membership fees from dues to donations. This has given members greater flexibility in supporting the chapter and simplified our book-keeping.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE EXCITING AND SAFE BIRDING ADVENTURES IN THE FUTURE WITH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!**

Please stay safe so we can all enjoy the vast birding opportunities



P.O. Box 994533  
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