



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 2023



Sharon Clay has been the Curator of Animal Programs at Turtle Bay for over fifteen years. During that time she has assembled an incredible showcase of

animals that are unable to be released back into the wild. These include several species of birds ranging from the Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture and Barn Owl to the Yellow-billed Magpie and her long time friend Kinta, the Laughing Kookaburra. Sharon has graciously given us the opportunity to visit her at "The Mill Building" in Turtle Bay to meet these amazing birds, learn all about them and experience them close up, some as they fly across the room! This will be an in-person presentation that you won't want to miss. Watching it later on YouTube just won't be the same.

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

Topic: Yurok Condor Reintroduction Program Update

Time: Mar 8, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85423086204>

Meeting ID: 854 2308 6204

ONE TAP MOBILE

+12532050468,,85423086204# US

+12532158782,,85423086204# US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 854 2308 6204

Meeting ID: 854 2308 6204

Find your local number: 854 2308 6204 <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/ktxtXoGvc>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to begin recognizing you in our monthly newsletter! These are our generous donors from January: Patricia Hamelberg, Randy Bush, Kat Camplin, Laurie Malmgren, Larry Siemens and Dan Bye. Thank You!

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Black Butte Lake, Buckhorn Recreation Area - February 4th @ 8:00 am



Come join us to explore Black Butte Lake's north shore, covered with oak woodland, to search for woodpeckers grebes, waterfowl, wrens, and occasional birds-of-prey. There have been some very recent sightings of Bonaparte's Gull at this third largest eBird Hotspot in Tehama County. This is a fee area at \$10 per vehicle, and there is no fee if are carrying your 'America the Beautiful' lands pass series card. Meet at the Kutras parking lot at 6:45 to carpool or at

the restroom facility at the Buckhorn Recreation Area's Boat Ramp parking lot at 8:00 am. Just follow the sign for 'Boat Ramp' when you enter the gate. Contact trip leader Dan Bye by text or phone 530 228 9373 or email danbye56@gmail.com for more information.

Reginato River Access Trail - February 9th @ 9:00 am



Doves versus pigeons – is there really a difference between the two? They both belong to the same family of birds, Columbidae. Can we see all four species of Columbiformes present in Shasta County on one bird walk? Find out the answers to these questions by joining Wintu Audubon Education Chair Tricia Ford on Thursday, February 9th at 9:00 for a walk along the John Reginato River Access Trail, which begins near the canoe and kayak launch area at the South Bonnyview boat ramp, 3810 South Bonnyview Road. We will spend about two hours walking less than two

miles on a rocky path with river cobblestones. Hiking boots are recommended. There is a port-a-potty at the boat ramp. This is the fifth in a series of eight walks, one per month from October through May, exploring City of Redding parks and trails for opportunities to see birds. If it is raining at the site at the start time of the walk, the event will be canceled.

Contact triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com for more information.

Hog Lake - February 11th @ 6:45 am



We will visit to Hog Lake in Tehama County to check on waterfowl and upland wintering birds. Caravan leaves the parking lot at Kutrass at 6:45 am or meet at the parking lot at Hog Lake at 7:30 am (Approximate Sunrise). Hog Lake is located off of State Route 36 about 9.5 miles east of Red Bluff. Look for the BLM sign on the left side of the highway. Bring layered clothes and sturdy

boots as the hiking is very rocky at points. There is no fee for use of this BLM property. If we have time, we will drive a few miles over to Hogsback Road and do some birding there too. Rain cancels the trip. Contact ebkashuba@gmail.com for more information.

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - February 18th @ 7:30 am



We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting wintering waterfowl and early migrating shorebirds. We hope that the winter rains have provided abundant open water and muddy shorelines for these species. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 7:30 am to meet 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 south from Redding 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.

Contact webmaster@wintuadubon.com for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

Clover Creek Preserve on January 12th



Gadwalls can be identified in flight by the white patch on the lower part of their wings.

Eight birders felt very lucky when the incessant rains cleared up for our walk around Clover Creek Preserve. The theme "Raptors of Redding" was fulfilled by the serendipitous appearance of a Merlin in a giant dead foothill pine, a bedraggled Red-tailed Hawk drying off, and a Cooper's Hawk patrolling the grounds. Highlights included excellent views of Lark Sparrows and a closeup of a lone Snow Goose. We noted that



MLK Day on January 16th

Stephanie, Tricia, Jaci, and Clinton staffed a booth for Wintu Audubon Society at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for the celebration of King's birthday. In addition to general information about our group, we offered a special activity for young children: making bluebirds and their nests out of paper handprints. A dozen

children took home their handmade artwork and Western Bluebird coloring pages.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on January 21st

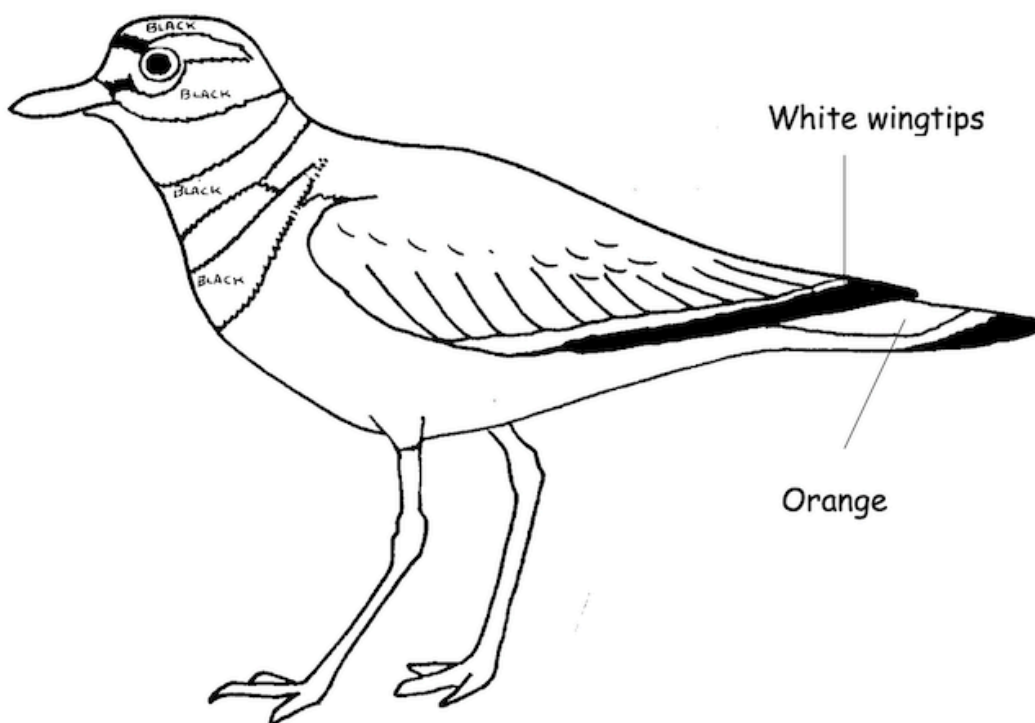


With the large Christmas to New Year's storm events passed, we were able to inaugurate 2023 with a field trip lead by Larry Jordan to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Four Wintu members carpoled to the reserve for a beautiful and very popular, half-day auto tour. Larry Jordan kept the two-vehicle procession on point with walkie talkie play-by-play of the sights. As a group we

tallied approximately 66 species (Tens of thousands of individuals counting the geese) at the reserve, highlights included Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs with the usual full spectrum of waterfowl, raptors and game birds.

THE EDUCATION CORNER from Tricia Ford

To download any of our Coloring Pages - [Click on this link](#)



Killdeer

Coloring instructions:

Black - the bill and all the bands labeled BLACK

Brown - the wings and back

Orange - the eye ring, the upper tail, and the rump

Pinkish brown - the legs

White - the rest of the bird, including the wingtips

Length: 8”

Habitat: Common resident in fields and pastures

Field marks: Two black neck marks and white underside. Brownish-orange rump and upper tail which show when bird flies.

Field notes: A Killdeer runs across the gravelly ground. The prominent black and white neck bands make the bird easy to see. Suddenly the Killdeer stops and...you can't see it. The bird has disappeared. The Killdeer illustrates two important principles of camouflage. One is countershading, the underside being lighter than the top. The second principle is disruptive coloration. The black and white neck bands break up the image of the bird so that you, or a predator, do not notice the outline of the bird. Instead of seeing “bird,” the eye sees unrelated patches of blacks, whites, and grays. When the bird moves, the eye can see the moving patches and connect them into the shape of a bird. But the moment the bird stops, the eye loses the bird outline, and the Killdeer seems to vanish into the gravel. The Killdeer must have excellent camouflage because it nests on the open ground. The nest is usually a shallow scoop in dry, rocky ground. The four eggs are covered with splotches so that they look like four rocks lying among all the other small rocks. It is extremely challenging to find a Killdeer nest. What makes it even more challenging is that the parent will make itself quite visible when you are getting near the nest. You will hear the distinctive shrill call and see the parent running on the ground. The bird might make itself even more prominent by spreading its bright, eye-catching cinnamon tail. What you had not noticed before was that the Killdeer had scurried far from its nest before catching your attention. The parent might even be fluttering or dragging its wing or tail as if it was injured. This broken wing act makes a predator think the injured bird is an easily caught meal. The bird lures the predator far from its nest, and then flies away and waits for the predator to leave the area before returning to the nest. We often think of birds as sitting on their eggs to keep them warm. Killdeer often face the task of cooling their eggs. Bare, rocky ground becomes quite hot on sunny days. Killdeer fly to water, soak their bellies, return to the nest, dampen the eggs, and then stand and shade them.

Killdeer Challenges Put a check mark in the box when you have completed the challenge.

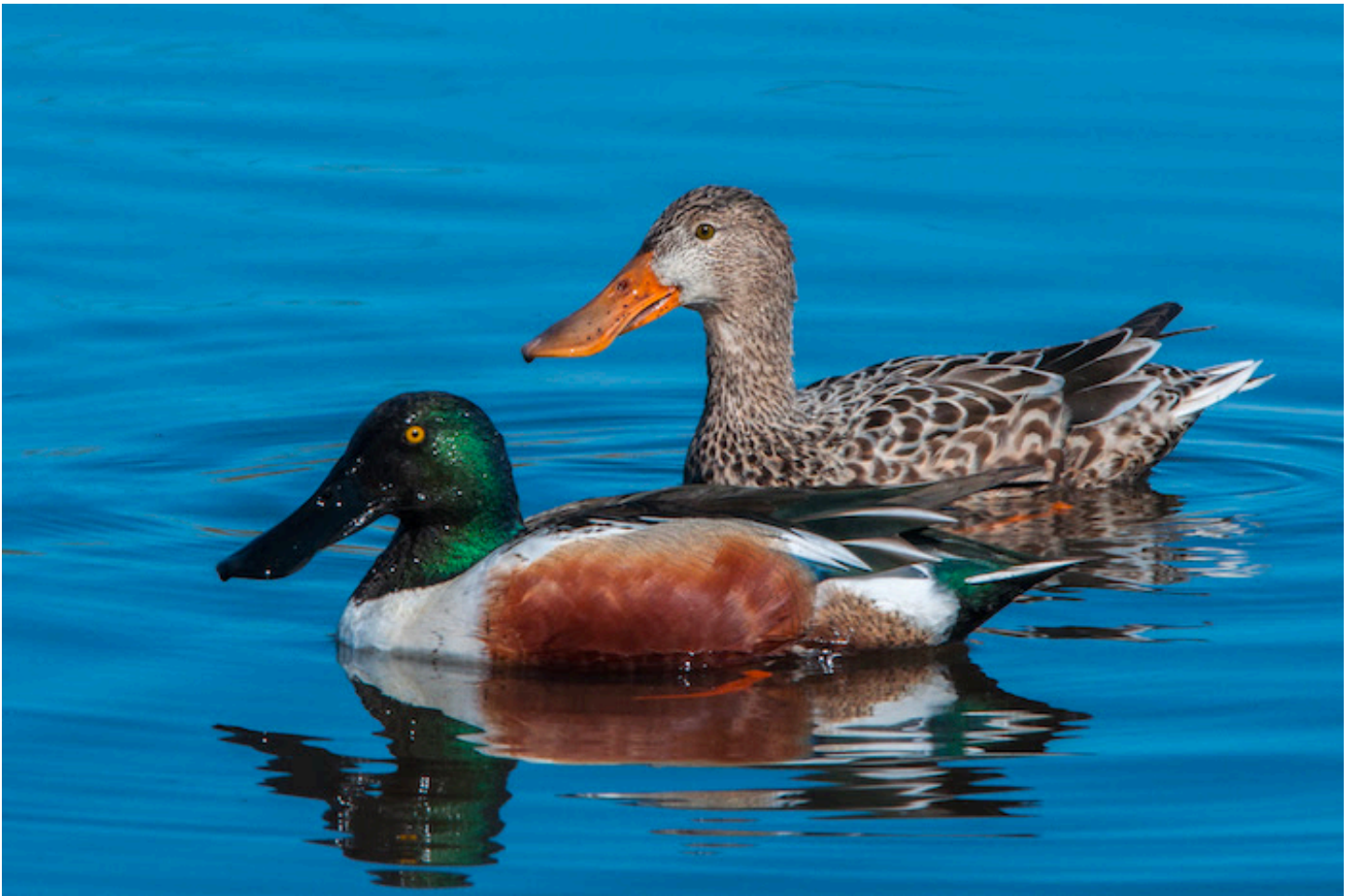
Identify a Killdeer. The males and females look the same

See how invisible a Killdeer becomes when it stands still.

Hear a male give its shrill "Kill-dee" call repeatedly as it advertises its territory. The male may do this from a high spot or while flying in circles with a distinctive deeper, slower wingbeat.

See a Killdeer do its broken wing act.

Hear a male give a three-part call while building a nest: a coo-OO-oo, highest in the middle.



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](#)! The articles are always interesting and informative. The current article is titled "Shovelers Don't Shovel"?

Click on image below to watch Northern Shoveler Feeding Behavior!

