MARCH ACTIVITIES

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay
Saturday, Mar 4 @ 9:00 am  Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call Dan Greaney, 276-9693, with questions or for more information. We assemble at the Venture Properties parking lot. Take the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.

2nd Saturday Bird Walk
Lema Ranch, Mar 11 @ 8 am  Lema Ranch (home to the McConnell Foundation Headquarters) offers various habitats: Cattail-rimmed ponds, a large lake, open fields and oak woodlands. These varied habitats provide good birding in all seasons. During our last early spring visit we saw 49 species in addition to the local specialties: Common Gallinule, Great-tailed Grackle, Lark Sparrow and Western Bluebird. Meet trip leader Sally NeSmith, at 8:00 am in the parking lot – Hemingway Road off of Shasta View. Questions: 831-535-2888.

GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, Mar 14 @ 7:00 pm  Terri Lhuillier, locally-known “Eagle Enthusiast” will pick up on the continuing saga of our famous Redding Eagles. Terri will update us with the story of an intruder eagle nicknamed "Newbie" who came to town in March of 2013 and disrupted Patriot & Liberty's 7th nesting season. This will lead us into the story of the arrival of Liberty's current mate, Spirit, in 2013, and the beginning of their courtship through their first 3 nesting seasons together. Liberty has now raised and survived all 18 eaglets from egg to fledgling, 13 with her first mate Patriot, and 5 with her current mate, Spirit. Come enjoy Terri’s love of Eagles and enthusiasm in her 13th year of observing these magnificent locally famous birds.

Wintu Audubon Society General Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the United Way, 2280 Benton Drive, Redding. (Except April’s meeting.)

Board Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM at the United Way meeting room. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS
March 14: Terri Lhuillier, Local “Eagle Enthusiast” will share photos and stories of our resident Redding Eagles.

Thursday, April 13 @ 7 pm  Note day & place change!  There will be a special presentation of “Breaking Point” a film about the shrinking Salton Sea to be held at Lema Ranch. (See last page for registration & directions.)
Local Mid-Week Bird Walk  
Battle Creek State Wildlife Area  
**Thursday, Mar 23 @ 8:00 am**  
The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has restored riparian habitat and maintains trails along Battle Creek including a connecting trail through an extensive marsh to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. During this 1/2 – day trip we expect to see a good variety of winter passerines, Bald Eagles, rails and ducks. Wear sturdy shoes. Trails are groomed but ground is uneven. **Linda Aldrich** will lead. We meet at the parking lot at Battle Creek Wildlife Area, reached by taking Hwy 5 or Hwy 273 south to Anderson, turning off at the Outlet Mall and following the signs east to Coleman Fish Hatchery.

Wildways at Oregon Gulch  
**Saturday, Mar 25 @ 10 am**  
The **Shasta Land Trust** is having a fund-raising Wildways event on March 25 at Oregon Gulch 10 am. **Kim Niemer** will be there to talk about Open Space in Redding. **Dave Ledger** of the California Native Plant Society will be leading a plant walk and Wintu Audubon will provide birding along with David’s walk; half the group will look up, the rest down. There will be a lunch at the end. Contact Shasta Land Trust at 241-7886. To carpool, meet at Kutras Park at 9:45.

**APRIL ACTIVITIES**

Discover Birding at Turtle Bay  
**Saturday, Apr 1 @ 9:00 am**  
Our youth/beginner bird walks are conducted on the first Saturday throughout the year. Wintu Audubon can provide binoculars and field guides. Call **Dan Greaney**, 276-9693, with questions or for more information. **Meet at the Venture Properties parking lot, the first left before the Redding Civic Auditorium.**

2nd Saturday Bird Walk  
**Millville Plains, Apr 8 @ 8:00 am**  
This driving tour of the oak woodlands along the base of the foothills of the Southern Cascades begins on the Millville Plains and continues on the Parkville Road. High points are the Plains and Parkville Cemetery. Enjoy a morning of birding and wildflowering! Merlins, Prairie Falcons, Pheasant, and early migrants will be our quarry, as well as a plethora of spring flowers. Bring a lunch and drinking water. We will return by mid-afternoon. Meet the leader, **Bill Oliver** at the Kutras Parking Area for carpooling.

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, Apr 13 @ 7:00 pm at the McConnell Headquarters at Lema Ranch**  
**Desiree Loggins**, Chapter Manager for Audubon California, will present the award-winning documentary film “**Breaking Point**”, the story of the shrinking Salton Sea & its effects on the migratory bird populations. The **Salton Sea** is one of the critical habitats for millions of birds along the Pacific Flyway and is one of the most imperiled. More than 300 bird species rely on Salton Sea’s deep waters, shorelines, mudflats and wetlands. As the sea size decreases, many species have already been negatively.
impacted. It is expected that the Salton Sea will shrink by 60% in the coming years. There is a path toward successful bird and habitat conservation. This event is open to the public and is free. Registration is necessary. See last page.

Local Weekday Bird Walk
Cottonwood Creek State Wildlife Area
Thursday, Apr 20 @ 7:30 am

This little-known State land borders the North side of Cottonwood Creek where it enters the Sacramento River. Marshes, small ponds, broad bands of undisturbed riparian forest, valley oak and grasslands some of which have been planted with shrubs and cottonwoods characterize the area. Bill Oliver will lead us in this ½-day outing. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water be aware that toilet facilities are not available. Meet 7:30 at the Kutras Parking Area to carpool. Anderson folks can catch us at the Anderson Outlet Stores at 8:00 am.

2017 Earth Day & Watershed Festival
Apr 22 @ 11 am – 5 pm

Wintu Audubon will be present at this all-day event celebrating the earth and sustainable living at Redding City Hall & Sculpture Garden. It is a free event with lots of activities for everyone. If you would be able to help with staffing our booth, please contact Bea Currie at 243-3955. For further information about the Festival, check their website: wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org/

2016 – 2017 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS
President: Chad Scott 619-852-4555
Vice-President: Linda Aldrich 223-5341
Treasurer: Beth Brockman 227-4228
Recording Secretary: Jeannette Carroll 246-3634
Corresponding Secretary: Beatrice Currie 243-3955

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Programs: Linda Aldrich 223-5341
Education: Dan Greaney 276-9693
Conservation: Janet Wall 547-1189
Bruce Webb 275-2076
Newsletter: Sally NeSmith 831-535-2888
Bill Oliver 941-7741
Webmaster: Larry Jordan 472-3131
Membership: George Horn 244-0581
Mike Carion 357-3873
Publicity: Larry Jordan 472-3131
Finance: Catherine Camp 337-6874
Event Coordinator: Chad Scott 619-852-4555

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
Harvey Carroll, Ester Cox, Janice Hunter, John Winchell, Roberta Winchell

Godwit Days – 22nd Annual Festival
April 19–25, 2017
Humboldt County
Come celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and wildlife through the selection of field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local guides during our annual week-long festival. The festival provides a perfect opportunity to see tens of thousands of shorebirds in migration, the occasional rarity, pelagic birds, visit Spotted Owls in the Redwoods, learn bird calls, photograph birds at all elevations, view children’s artwork, learn from renowned keynote presenters and numerous government and non-profit organizations. See 100+ birds on the Big Day trip and add to your life list. Check out the Godwit Days website: godwitdays.org/ or (707) 826-7050

CNPS Garden tour, April 29, 2017
The Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has scheduled their biennial garden tour for April 29, 2017 and Wintu Audubon will be there! We’ll have an information table at one of the five gardens on the
self-guided tour. These beautiful gardens feature the use of native plants in the landscape. Many of the attendees also appreciate the birds that native plants attract and will be eager for the literature we’ll be giving away and to have their bird questions answered. If you would like to assist at our table, please e-mail Linda Aldrich at lindaaldrich@earthlink.net or call 223-5341. We hope to have two shifts, so that table workers can also attend the tour. For more information about the tour itself, contact Donal Jonio, Native Plant Garden Tour Chair at dfjorca@charter.net.

Trip Reports

Second Saturday Walk – Mary Lake
Jan 14, 2017  Bill Oliver led seven birders around Mary Lake and the adjacent Catholic Cemetery on a cold but clear morning. We found that most birds are late risers on cold mornings; sparrows were noticeably absent until mid-morning and nearly all passerines were found on sunny south-facing slopes. Unfortunately the Eurasian Wigeon present two days before was absent but we did enjoyed 35 of the “usual suspects”.

Mid-week Walk – Clover Creek Preserve
Jan 19, 2017  Three intrepid birders met in chilly, intermittently rainy weather at the scheduled area, Cascade Park, access to which was severely limited by flooding. At the suggestion of trip leader Linda Aldrich, Clover Creek Preserve was substituted and she, John Coon and Connie Word caravanned over there. Our first bird was a White-tailed Kite, preening in a tall dead tree and later flying, hovering and hunting over the preserve. There were a number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, two of whom scolded and flashed their ruby crowns. A male American Kestrel flew from perch to perch ahead of us for a while. Other “good” birds were Western Meadowlark, American Pipet and Western Bluebird. Our final treat was a “v” of Tundra Swans flying overhead. In all we saw 33 species.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Jan 28, 2017  Fourteen birders migrated south to the Sacramento NWR lead by Mike Carion. It was a beautiful day with mild temperatures and only slight winds. We were immediately greeted by of two Peregrine Falcons! It was the start of a great day.

We made a quick stop at the bird feeders to see a variety of local sparrows and finches and a Kingfisher as we prepared for the 6-mile auto tour. We were lucky to have recorded 72 species of birds on the auto tour loop! Most numerous birds on the trip were the thousands of Snow and Ross’s Geese. Their numbers were followed by large numbers of Northern Shoveler and Gadwall. We saw about 100 Cackling Canada Geese and numerous White-fronted Geese.

Most notable of the bird sightings was a trio of Bald Eagles hunting a duck in the distance. We watched as one eagle picked a duck up and dropped it into the water where the other two were soaring and waiting for it to come to the surface. It was quite spectacular! We saw a few of the following species: Great Horned Owl, Eared Grebe, Avocet, Wilson’s Snipe, Virginia Rail, and a Downy Woodpecker! Overall, it was a fun and bird filled trip, topped off by the uprising of thousands of Snow and Ross’s geese (including a few blue phase snows!).
Youth/Beginner Walk  Feb 4, 2017
A few raindrops, and then a few more, didn’t stop six ready birders from exploring the Turtle Bay ponds, but the weather did seem to affect what birds were out. Diving ducks showed up – Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Ruddies, Ring-necks, and one Golden-eye – but no dabbling ducks were on the rain-muddied water. A few Coots paddled about, one pair of geese splashed down, and three Mallards circled overhead and moved on. On shore Black Phoebes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets put on fly-catching shows. Golden-crowned Sparrows led the ground scratchers. A few Scrub Jays and a Flicker added some color to the gray morning. The only raptors seen were two Turkey Vultures. One made a half-hearted attempt at soaring, but then returned to his companion where they huddled with the grumpy patience of, well, vultures, I guess.

WINTU BUSINESS

March 14 Bird Club Meeting. All members in good standing will be able to vote on the following amendment to the Wintu Society by-laws.

Proposed amendment to chapter bylaws, Article III, Section 2
Current: No one individual on the Board of Directors shall serve in the same capacity more than seven consecutive years.
Proposed: No one individual on the Board of Directors shall serve in the same capacity more than seven consecutive years unless the Board makes a specific exemption to this section.

The Board appreciates and strives for new faces among the directors, but also recognizes the reality of working with volunteers. The current case is that Linda Aldrich is willing to continue as Program Chair, but she has served in that capacity for seven years. We are happy with her service, and nobody else is clamoring to take the position. This amendment allows the chapter to retain Linda's services.

Slate of Nominees for Fiscal Year 2017-2018  The Nominating Committee announced this slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and Directors-At-Large at our General Meeting in February and solicited nominees from the floor. At our March General Meeting the slate will be voted on after again soliciting nominees from the floor.

Slate of Nominees
President – Dan Greaney
Vice President – Chad Scott
Treasurer – Beth Brockman
Recording Secretary – Catherine Camp
Corresponding Secretary – Jeannette Carroll, Bea Currie (Assisting)
Program Chairman – Linda Aldrich, Janice Hunter (Assisting)
Education – Roberta Winchell
Conservation – Janet Wall, Bruce Webb
Newsletter – Sally Nesmith, Bill Oliver
Webmaster/Publicity – Larry Jordan
Membership – George Horn, Janice Hunter
Field Trip Chairman – Mike Carion
Finance – Catherine Camp, Connie Word
Directors-At-Large – Harvey Carroll, Esther Cox, Bea Currie, John Winchell

Want to be a Member?  Keep current of upcoming events & birding information.  Visit our website

www.wintuaudubon.org
WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 994533
REDDING, California 96099-4533

CHIRP-N-CHATTER
March / April 2017

Wintu Audubon Society presents
a Screening of the Award–Winning Documentary

BREAKING POINT – The story of the disappearing Salton Sea & its effects on migratory birds

Thursday, April 13, 2017 @ 7 pm
McConnell Foundation Headquarters
Lema Ranch – 800 Shasta View Dr. Redding

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • LIMITED SEATING • REGISTRATION NECESSARY

To register
please call Linda Aldrich at 223–5341
or Email: webmaster@wintuaudubon.org
or Get your FREE eTicket on our website at:
www.wintuaudubon.org/product/breaking-point-screening/