



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

March 2022

MAGEE MARSH - THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING



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.

Wednesday, March 9th at 7PM - Link:
[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87852059719](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87852059719)

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

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

[HTTPS://
WWW.WINTUAUDUBON.ORG](https://www.wintuaudubon.org)

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.wintuaudubon.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 Presentations 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

DYE CREEK PRESERVE OUTING, MARCH 19TH @ 7:30 AM



Located in the foothills below Mount Lassen, the 37,540-acre Gray Davis Dye Creek Preserve is an expansive landscape of blue oak woodlands, volcanic buttes, and rolling wildflower fields. The landscape is dissected dramatically by Dye Creek Canyon with its vertical cliffs, clear-water creek, and diverse riparian forests. The forest widens as it leaves the canyon mouth and flows westward, through wetlands, to its confluence with the Sacramento River. Join Larry Jordan, trip leader, for a hike up Dye Creek Canyon. Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Canyon Wrens are a possibility. Wild flowers should be abundant. The three mile trail is rough so be prepared. Bring water, a lunch, and sturdy shoes for this all day outing. Meet at **7:30 sharp** at the Kutras Park on Park Marina Drive to caravan and bring a lunch for this full-day trip. We will bird along Foothill Road on the way with each vehicle having a walkie-talkie to communicate birds seen.

Per our updated Trip Waiver: 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 prior to the field trip.

Participants must practice social distancing when outdoors on field trips and must wear masks and practice social distancing while indoors. Participation is not currently allowed for persons under the age of 5.

CLOVER CREEK PRESERVE WALK, MARCH 26TH @ 8:00 AM

This preserve within the Redding city limits has a large, permanent pond with a marsh of cattails and reeds, shallow winter pools and uplands planted with oaks. We hope to see grassland species such as the Northern Harrier, Western Meadowlark, Say's Phoebe and Western Bluebird, as well as a variety of ducks.



Meet at the preserve, 3705 Shasta View Drive, at the main parking lot. We will spend about two hours walking less than two miles on a paved trail. There is a port-a-potty located in the parking lot and a full restroom at the nearby Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers Club.

TRIP REPORTS - from Tim Kashuba

Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary



On a clear and busy day at the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary 6 birders tallied 52 species of winter and some spring arrivals. Larry Jordan led the group along the walk paralleling SR 44 which we shared with the local Frosty Fun Run athletes. Two foraging Wilson's Snipes were spotted along the muddy fringes of the ponds along Highway 44. A quick loop around the sanctuary next yielded great looks at cavorting Red tailed Hawks, cruising Bald Eagles, Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes. The group was able to inspect the recently installed bird blind championed by Dan Greaney, past President of Wintu Audubon.

Bureau of Land Management Field Trip to Hog Lake



The Bureau of Land Management hosted the Wintu Audubon February 19th field trip to Hog Lake, located in Tehama County about 10 miles east of Red Bluff. David Byers, Park Ranger at the Redding Field Office along with four BLM specialists provided a guided tour highlighting the geology, biology and land use management of the Hog Lake Plateau, part of the Sacramento River Bend Area. Six Wintu members attended and the group tallied 29 species on the trip.

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

McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens



Six birders tallied 40 species on a chilly Saturday morning walk through the arboretum and gardens located on the north side of the Turtle Bay Exploration Campus. Tricia Ford surprised everyone with a good look at a nesting Anna's Hummingbird to start the walk.



Highlights included close looks at Ring-necked and Wood Ducks, and a Red-shouldered Hawk that was overseeing the pond.



WINTU AUDUBON & SHASTA ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE EDUCATIONAL OUTING



On February 12th, Wintu Audubon joined Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) for an educational field trip at Turtle Bay. Twenty-six people attended on a beautiful Redding morning. The purpose of the field trip was to discuss the possible threats to the habitat along the Sacramento River, including the Bird Sanctuary, if there's grand-scale development in the adjacent Rodeo Grounds and Civic Auditorium. David Ledger of SEA identified the native plants along the river while our own Larry Jordan identified the bird life. Our wonderful Field Trip volunteer, Tricia Ford, overlooked the bird count. Thirty-two species were observed including Barrow's Goldeneye, Downey Woodpecker, American Coot and many others. We were also greeted by a Yellow-billed Magpie at the beginning of our walk, making it the first time a few of us had ever seen one.

The City of Redding has no date at this time as to when City Council will renew discussion regarding the land at Turtle Bay. We will keep you informed as we learn more.



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

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>.



California Rangeland Trust is applying for a grant with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a conservation easement on the 7,728.35-acre Russ Red Bluff Ranch in southern Shasta County and northern Tehama County. Wintu Audubon Society has written a letter of support for the grant to facilitate the purchase of a conservation easement to protect this vital habitat in Shasta County. See below.



Wintu Audubon Society

Birding in Northern California

PO Box 994533
Redding, CA 96099-4533
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February 6, 2022

Michael Delbar
California Rangeland Trust
1225 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-1910

Subject: Russ Red Bluff Ranch Conservation Easement

Dear Mr. Delbar:

We are writing in support of your grant application to CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife for its Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant for the Russ Red Bluff Ranch. As we understand it, the grant will facilitate purchase of a Conservation Easement which will help to permanently protect the ranch from future development including the potential loss of more than 2,400 acres of oak woodlands, which support a variety of wildlife species including deer, bear, turkey, quail, raptors, songbirds, Chinook salmon, steelhead and resident rainbow trout.

The Ranch includes over 4.5 miles of the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek, and contains a mixture of oak woodlands, riparian areas, and grasslands. Without protection these habitats may meet the same fate as adjacent lands being lost to firewood sales, ranchette development and marijuana growing. Bird species common in this area of Shasta County may include valley quail, songbirds, red tailed and red shouldered hawk, northern spotted owl, northern goshawk, bald and golden eagle, a variety of other owl species including possibly burrowing owl, various woodpecker species including pileated woodpecker, vultures and corvids. Native oak habitats and their connectivity are vital for all of these species, and the watershed and wildlife habitat values of this Ranch heighten the necessity and importance of its protection.

We support your efforts to protect these landscapes vital to bird and wildlife species in Shasta County. If there is any further support we can provide or questions we can answer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

s/Bruce Webb, Co-chair Conservation
cc: President Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara

P.O. Box 994533
REDDING, California 96099-4533



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