



# ***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 2023**



The Yurok tribe is in partnership with the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the California Condors to Yurok Ancestral Territory. The tribe has relocated groups of Condors to the Klamath River watershed after extensive biological and watershed assessments. Tiana Williams will provide a report on this exciting project, including plans for the future!

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

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

## MARCH ACTIVITIES

### Lema Ranch - March 4th @ 8:00 am



The wide-open vistas, grassy fields, large ponds and oak woodlands of Lema Ranch offer quite a variety of bird species. Winter waterfowl, woodpeckers and sparrows are a particular treat this time of year and if we're lucky, we might spot a Canvasback or a Merlin! Meet at 8:00 am at Gate 10 located at the end of Lema Road, just past the maintenance facility. Park on the

right-hand side of the road by the maintenance facility. We will walk the paved trails to view all five ponds. There is a bathroom located near Gate 10. Rain cancels the outing. Contact Larry Jordan at [webmaster@wintuadubon.org](mailto:webmaster@wintuadubon.org) for more information.

### Mary Lake - March 9th @ 9:00 am



“Warblers and Wood Ducks” is the theme of the bird walk at this gem of a park in west Redding. Meet on Thursday, March 9, at 9:00 at the bulletin board at the corner of Lakeside Drive and Mary Lake Drive. We will spend about an hour and a half walking one mile on a cement path. There are no bathrooms. This is the sixth 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, the event will be cancelled.

Contact [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

### Payne's Creek Wetlands - March 25th @ 8:00 am



This is a no fee area and a very active hotspot this time of the year, especially with all the recent weather events we have had in 2023 so far. We are planning to meet at the Bass Pond Parking Lot at, 22459 Bend Ferry Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080, at the main entrances to the Wetlands. This half-day event should yield many varieties of waterbirds, raptors,

woodpeckers, and many songbirds in this unique and open wetlands area. From the parking lot we will start with a walk on a two-mile loop through several ponds to the south side of the road. If time permits, we will take a short drive to Payne's Creek Crossing to round out our journey. Please contact Dan Bye, by text/cell 530 228 9373 or email [danbye56@gmail.com](mailto:danbye56@gmail.com) for more info.

### **Clean California Event - March 25th @ 12:00 pm**



Wintu Audubon will have a booth with information and bird activities for children at the Clean California fair to be held on Saturday, March 25 from noon to 3:00 pm. The event will be held at Big League Dreams Hockey Rink in Redding. CalTrans is the sponsor of this event, and the goal is to educate Californians on the importance of taking pride in our communities

and keeping California Clean. We are looking for volunteers to staff the booth and to help set it up and take it down, working for four hours from 11:30 to 3:30. If you like to work with children and families, contact Education Chair Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com).

---

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Black Butte Lakes, Buckhorn Recreation Area on February 4th**



Wow, we had some amazing and unexpected observations on our 2.5 mile journey along the shores and campsites of Buckhorn Recreation Area. On this half day trip we finished with a total of 47 species. We started north of the boat ramp where we encountered a group of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls which we photographed only to discover later that we also had Herring, Short-billed and California Gulls

as well! There were plenty of Clark's and Western Grebes and a large flock of American White Pelicans out on the lake. Within the lower section of the campgrounds we observed a very rare Sage Thrasher, as well as Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows and a Rock Wren. Raptors were represented by a Golden Eagle, a pair of Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and four American Kestrels. On the upper levels of the campgrounds we found a Mountain Bluebird as well as several other songbird species.

## Reginato River Access on February 9th



A gorgeous sunny winter morning, a walk along the Sacramento River, and 44 species of birds equal a great birding trip! Although the theme of the trip was “Pigeons and Doves of Redding,” only the Rock Pigeons showed up under the South Bonnyview Bridge. Fourteen birders attempted to sort out the various confusingly similar female ducks among the goldeneyes, scaups and ring-necks. A Mute

Swan got us talking about the differences between Tundra, Trumpeter, and Mute Swans. The songs and calls of White-breasted Nuthatches were heard throughout the big riverbend trees.

## Hog Lake Outing on February 11th



A healthy contingent of 12 folks from Wintu Audubon and the BLM birded Hog Lake and environs on Saturday February 11th after being rained out in early January. The recent rains provided lots of wet habitat not seen for a few years in this area. Beautiful changing skies from windswept clouds to bright sunshine highlighted not only bird but some early wildflower and invertebrate observations. As a group we tallied approximately 35 bird

species including the expected Tundra Swans, Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Rock Wren, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes hunting from the low boulders. Cryptic Killdeer and Wilson’s Snipe were spotted at the ephemeral pond.

## Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on February 18th



Four birders enjoyed a crisp, clear morning at our local wastewater treatment plant to tally 51 species! There were plenty of Bufflehead and Common Goldeneyes on the river but we couldn't find a single Barrow's. Woodpeckers were well represented with Northern Flickers, Acorn, Downy, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, and sparrows included White-

crowned, Golden-crowned, Savannah, Song, and my favorite, Lincoln's Sparrow.

---

## UPDATE ON REDDING RIVERFRONT SPECIFIC PLAN

### What happened...

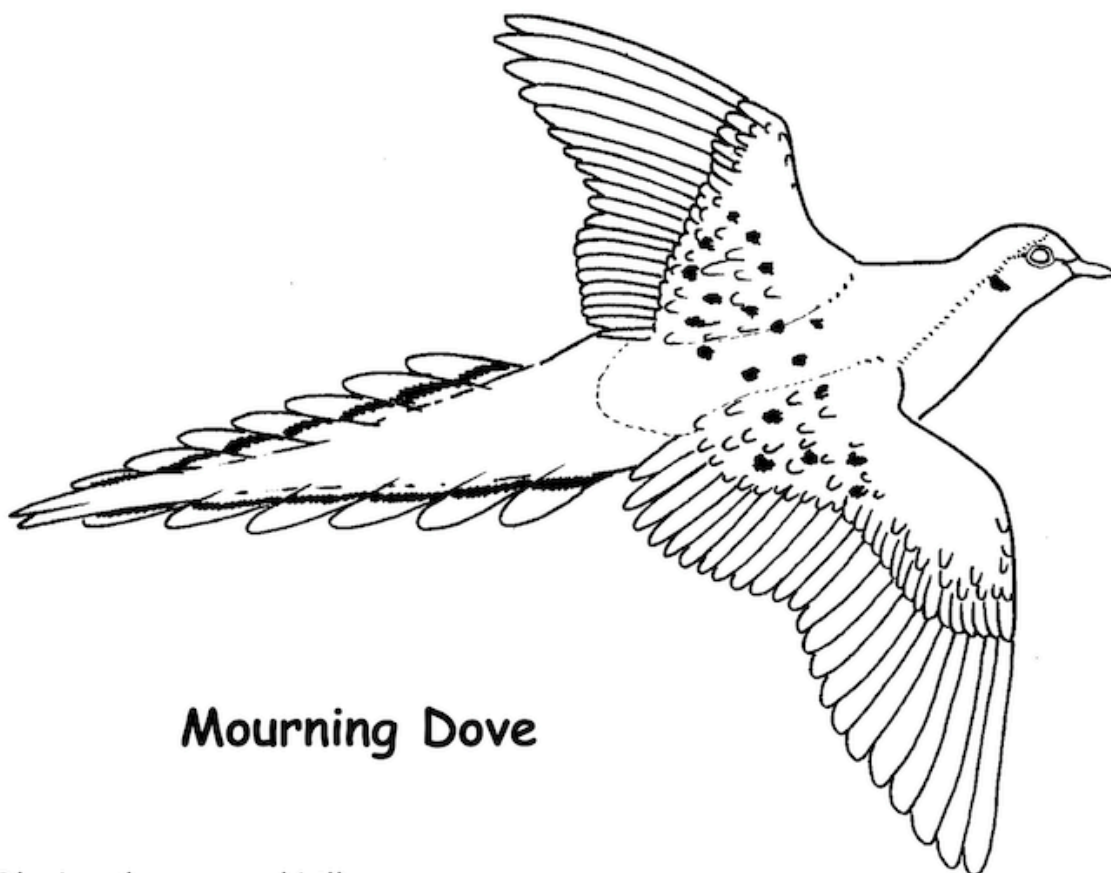
The City of Redding took the first step several weeks ago to update the Riverfront Specific Plan. The Plan area includes the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary and extensive riparian resources from the Rodeo Grounds to Cypress Ave. Last year the Council decided to update the Plan instead of moving forward with the surplus land sale of the entire Civic Auditorium and Rodeo Grounds complex for intense redevelopment. That effort was proposed by private developer interests including a company called "Populous". On a 3-2 vote February 7th, the Council chose a team led by the planning firm MIG, assisted by the architectural developer Populous. Yes, the same Populous! Many at the meeting including Wintu Audubon President Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara, spoke in opposition to this selection due in part to the obvious conflict represented by a firm whose earlier expressed intention was to develop huge footprint structures, attracting many times the current daily visitation this very sensitive bird sanctuary and surrounding areas now experiences. The impacts on riparian resources, birds and wildlife would be impossible to fully mitigate. However, the consultants may have revealed their development intensity priorities by leaving out of their proposal any work tasks or budgeting for assessments and impact analysis of wildlife and riparian resources. Surprisingly, the Council majority, the consultant and staff were all unfazed by this unfortunate omission.

### What's next...?

We will be monitoring closely and commenting loudly to ensure the planners examine, fully document and carefully protect the rich habitats within the plan area, including but not limited to the Bird Sanctuary. **Please stay tuned for the next public workshops which are expected in the next several months. Please consider attending them! Your letters to the Council demanding a thorough assessment of these important habitats during the plan preparation (not after the plan is written and mostly decided) would help immensely. Send letters to the Council by email to [cityclerk@cityofredding.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofredding.org).** We have also reached out to the local California Fish and Wildlife office to assist in explaining to the planners how important these habitats are to preserving wildlife for the benefit of Redding residents and the entire region.

Bruce Webb, Wintu Audubon Conservation Chair

**THE EDUCATION CORNER** from **Tricia Ford**  
To download any of our Coloring Pages - [Click on this link](#)



## Mourning Dove

Black - the eye and bill

Pink - the face, throat, breast, and belly

Light brown - the crown, nape, back, and rump

White - the edge of each tail feather

Gray - the tail (except for the white edges), and the primary and secondary wing feathers

Turquoise blue - the eye ring and a touch on the crown and neck

**Length:** 10 1/2"

**Habitat:** Common resident in woodlands and grasslands

**Field marks:** Long, pointed tail has white edges in flight

**Field notes:** Their soft, drawn-out calls sound sad, as if they are in mourning for someone who has died. When taking off or landing, their wings make a sharp whistling. Mourning Doves raise more clutches during the year than any other North American bird. A clutch is a group of eggs that a bird is raising at a given point of time. Several things help them raise young so quickly. The nest only takes a few days to build because it is so flimsy. It is usually a few crossed sticks supported by branches with some fine material to cushion the eggs. The female lays only two eggs usually. These eggs are sat on and kept warm all the time. The father sits on the eggs throughout the day; the mother sits on them throughout the night. As a result, the young hatch out in only two weeks. These

babies grow very fast because they are fed crop milk. The crop is an expandable pouch near the throat. A milk that is high in protein and extremely nutritious is made there by both the mother and the father. The baby sticks its beak down its parent's throat and drinks this milk. The baby pigeons eat only crop milk for the first week after hatching. Adult doves eat only seeds. But rapidly growing baby birds need lots of protein. Most seed-eating birds provide a protein supplement by feeding insects to their babies. But not the doves and pigeons. The adult bird's crop concentrates the protein within seeds into a highly nutritious milk which helps babies grow so fast that they fledge in just two weeks. Then the nest can be reused or a new one is quickly built for the next clutch. A final reason why doves can raise so many clutches is that their nesting season extends longer into the hot, dry summer. Not having to feed their babies insects allows doves to keep having babies during the full heat of summer when insects are not common, but seeds are.

**Mourning Dove Challenges:** Put a check mark in the box when you have completed the challenge.

Identify a Mourning Dove. The male and female look similar.

See the long pointed tail edged in white.

Hear the whistling sound of its quickly flapping wings. Mourning doves can also fly silently.

See their close, pointed-in footprints where they've been walking in the dust. "Pigeon-toed" means that your feet point inward instead of forward. Pigeon toes are common in little children.

Hear the long coo with 5 notes, "Coo-OO-oo-oo-oo." The second note is stressed higher. Males give this call in the spring to attract a female.

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

---

## **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 recent generous donors: Jane Brockett, Steven Callan, Earle Curran, David Ledger, Jeanette & Harvey Carroll, Connie Word, Kathryin Mantri, Bea Currie, Dan Bye, and a special thanks to Barbara & David Klasson for their exceptional gift. Thank You!



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 "Still Aliens"?

Click on image below to watch the Flight of the Starlings!

