



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**

April 2022



Ramblings of an Old Hooter

Susan Thomas is a Biological Technician, part of the research and development arm of the US Forest Service. She has been surveying and studying the Northern Spotted Owl for 32 years. She will discuss how the Forest Service conducts the owl surveys and a bit about the listing of the owl. Of course she will show us some photos of the Spotted Owls, their nests, and their young. Here is the link to the presentation:

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

Topic: Ramblings of an Old Hooter

Time: Apr 13, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87591502302>

Meeting ID: 875 9150 2302

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87591502302# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,87591502302# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 875 9150 2302

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbmXfWppE5>

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 Altacal Audubon, Redbud Audubon, Redwood Region Audubon, Mendocino Coast Audubon, Peregrine Audubon, Plumas Audubon and Golden Gate Audubon.



APRIL ACTIVITIES

Clear Creek WWTP - April 9th @ 8:00 am



We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating warblers. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 8:00 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 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.

John Reginato River Access Trail - April 16th @ 8:00 am



Join us to look and listen for spring warblers in the big oaks along this Sacramento River trail. If we're lucky, we might also see the resident pair of Peregrine Falcons or Barn Owl. Meet at the parking lot near the boat launch at the John Reginato River Access at 3855 South Bonnyview Road. This area is also known as the South Bonnyview boat ramp. We will spend about two

hours walking less than two miles on a rocky path with river cobblestones. Hiking boots are recommended. There are rest rooms at the boat ramp. Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com for more information.

Anderson River Park Bird Walk - April 23rd @ 8:00 am



Explore the banks of the Sacramento River, four ponds and a shady oak woodland to look for arriving spring warblers and Osprey. A large variety of year-round birds frequent the park, including Yellow-billed Magpies, Bald Eagles, Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers. A special treat would be a sighting of the elusive California Thrasher. Meet at 8am at Kiddyland (the children's

playground) in the park, located at 2800 Rupert Road in Anderson. We will spend

about two hours walking less than two miles on paved and hard-pack dirt trails and across grass lawns. There are bathrooms located at Kiddyland. Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com for more information.

Note: 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 and sign a waiver prior to all field trips.



TRIP REPORTS - photos by Tim Kashuba

Dye Creek Preserve



On March 13 four birders hiked the 3.5 mile trail at the Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve. The day was punctuated with light rain in the morning and bright sunshine in the afternoon hike out. The team tallied forty-eight bird species. Notable sightings included a calling Greater Roadrunner, a very curious Canyon Wren, overhead Sandhill Cranes and two Rufous-crowned Sparrows.

Clover Creek Preserve



Clover Creek Preserve was the site of Tricia's March bird hike held on March 26th. The bright early spring day yielded thirty-six species observed by ten Wintu Audubon members. Despite the dry conditions prevailing in the north State, the Preserve was very busy with bird life. Notable sightings included an Osprey, Common Yellowthroats, Lincoln's Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron swallowing a large fish and many

still wintering White- and Golden-Crowned Sparrows.

Wintu Audubon Seeking Board Members!

Thanks to the current Board for continuing service into next year! The chapter leadership continues strong conservation activity around local bird-rich areas and is steering us into resuming field trips and educational programs as Covid wanes. Thanks to Tricia Ford for volunteering as our new Education Chair. We are still seeking a Membership Chair and Directors-at-Large. If you can spare a few hours/month and would like to help out, contact Dan Greaney at greaneys@yahoo.com or 530-276-9693

Office	Nominee
President	Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara
Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Beth Brockman
Secretary	Jaclyn White
Program Chair	Catherine Camp
Field Trip Chair	Tim Kashuba
Conservation Chair	Bruce Webb
Education Chair	Trish Ford
Membership Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Corresponding Secretary	Jeannette Carroll
Newsletter Chair	Larry Jordan
Web Site Chair	Larry Jordan
New Director At Large	Dan Bye



Development at Turtle Bay Please let City Council know what you want!

On April 19 the Redding City Council is considering encroaching on this natural asset with development of high-use venues – think 24/7/365 lights and traffic, noise, and inevitable runoff, if the developer's proposal is to be believed. The wildlife will be unavoidably compromised, and with it the human experience. Please help ensure that the Council considers any development carefully, with input from citizens and public information provided. The tool for this public consideration is CEQA, a process of inquiry and information that should be conducted before land is sold to a developer.

Please attend the City Council meeting at 6pm on April 19, at City Hall, 777 Cypress Ave, Redding. Plan to speak so the Council hears citizen values; reading a statement is perfectly acceptable. Or if you cannot attend the meeting, write a letter supporting full vetting of development impacts **before** public land is sold to Populous or any other developer.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS:

- If Populous' vision of heightened 24-7 use of the land is realized, how will it impact wildlife? It is hard to imagine the flocks of robins resting comfortably along with glaring lights and streaming traffic. It is hard to imagine orioles trying to nest in cottonwoods where loud entertainment keeps them from hearing one another. Perhaps mammals and fish somehow wouldn't be affected, but we should know before relinquishing our land for development.
- Are the development economics realistic? There is little readily available information on economic return to communities in Populous' past projects, but they frequently build sports venues, which are widely reported to enrich the developer while removing money from the municipality. Are there credible studies that show this development would bring funds into Redding? It makes little sense to sell our richest park land to replace it with grand carcasses of buildings.
- How would selling and developing the land affect local residents now and in the future? What level/sort of development might actually be good?

