



# ***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 2023**



Have you been curious to learn about owl banding? On April 12th, Erika Iacona will be presenting on the methods and procedures of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*). The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the smallest forest owls in North America and is highly nocturnal and migratory, making research of the species a late-night special. In the fall of 2022, Erika, in cooperation with Wintu Audubon, led Shasta County's first Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring program. Join us in learning about why this citizen-science project is important, and discover the results from our banding efforts in the fall of 2022!

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

Topic: Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Time: Apr 12, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86705524062>

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! These are our recent generous donors: Dan Bye, Christina Strickland, Dan Greaney, Kaye Woodworth, Evan Giroskey, Nancy Modeen, Dr. Eleanor Canova-Davis and David Garza, Thank You!

Donations can be made either through our [PayPal link](#) or by check at Wintu Audubon, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533

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## **APRIL ACTIVITIES**

### **Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary - April 6th @ 9:00 am**



Join Wintu Audubon Society for a walk on a mile of the Sacramento River Trail through the T <https://mcusercontent.com/5049614550ba7f5ee09f61aa5/images/be620ab2-9893-1d7d-e8be-9d3dc58869a3.jpeg> Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary. Spring migration, the theme for this month's walk, will be revving up as swallows, warblers, and orioles begin to stream northward to their breeding

grounds. We will search the trees for their brilliant yellows and oranges. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, in front of Branch House Riverfront Bistro near the

main entrance to Turtle Bay Museum. We will spend two to three hours walking slightly over one mile of paved trail. Bathrooms can be accessed at Turtle Bay Museum. Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Battle Creek Wildlife Area - April 8th @ 7:30 am**



Battle Creek Wildlife Area is a [CDFW fee area](#) which can certainly handle and thrive with this winter's wet season and provide us with great birding opportunities. Please join us at Wildlife area's parking lot located at: 23999 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd, Anderson, CA. These 582 acres of riparian forests, marshes, and oak woodland supports a diverse variety of migratory and resident bird species, as well as aquatic and terrestrial mammals. Bald eagles and ospreys nest here in spring. We will explore the two primary trails, Oaktree and Coleman Hatchery, for a 2.6-mile hike for the best viewing of the area.

### **Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - April 15th @ 7:30 am**



With precipitation closer to normal this year, we are looking forward to some good habitat in the ponds at the City of Redding's Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bring your scope if you have one to help us scan for migrating shorebirds. 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.

## Earth Day Festival - April 22nd from 11:00 am to 4pm



Time to celebrate Earth Day in a whole new way! Wintu Audubon Society will have a booth at a new Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Caldwell Park. Help us celebrate our environment at this special event and at participating organizations' events throughout April! You may remember the wonderful Whole Earth and Watershed Festival, which so many have enjoyed for 20+ years. With the hard-working founder and brains behind this successful event, Peggy Rebol, retiring, Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) will now continue the legacy of celebrating our planet! The event will be held in Caldwell Park and will

concentrate on groups specifically

working towards protecting our environment with a heavy emphasis on children, so schools will be a part of this event. We will also be linking related field trips, films, classes, and talks about environmental issues during the month of April to make this more than just a one-day event. For updates, go to SEA's Facebook page at [facebook.com/ShastaEnvironmentalAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/ShastaEnvironmentalAlliance)

## Mary Lake - April 29th @ 7:00 am



Join trip leader David Garza at 7am at the bulletin board at the corner of Mary Lake Drive and Lakeside Drive for a three hour walk around Mary Lake. Wood Ducks are always expected as well as a variety of other waterfowl, herons, egrets, songbirds and most likely warblers.

KEEP CURRENT OF UPCOMING EVENTS & BIRDING INFORMATION!

VISIT THE WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.WINTUAUDUBON.ORG/](https://www.wintuadubon.org/)

# Wintu Audubon Slate of Electors

Each year the Wintu Audubon Society presents a proposed Slate for Officers and Directors who will serve the following year. This slate is published in the April Newsletter and is voted on at the May General meeting, May 10, 2023.

The proposed slate for the 2023/2024 term is as follows:

- PRESIDENT: REBECA LADRON DE GUEVARA
- Vice President: Vacant
- Treasurer: Catherine Camp
- Secretary: Jaclyn White
- Program Chair: Vacant
- Field Trip Chair: Tim Kashuba
- Conservation Chair: Bruce Webb
- Education Chair: Tricia Ford
- Membership Chair: Randy Bush
- Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Carroll
- Newsletter Chair: Larry Jordan
- Website Chair: Larry Jordan
- Director At Large: Dan Bye
- Director At Large: Erika Iacona
- Director At Large: Connie Word
- Director At Large: Dan Greaney
- Director At Large: Stephanie Hughes
- Director At Large: George Horn

We are looking for a members of the Wintu Audubon Society and birding community who would be interested in joining the Board of Directors for the next year, September 2023 through June 2024. We currently have openings for the Vice President and Program Committee Chair, as well as Directors At Large.

We are looking for a Board member to take over as **Program Committee Chair** for the next year, September 2023 through June of 2024. This is an opportunity for you to dig in to the most current issues and happenings in the world of birding and bring them to our members for discussion, enjoyment and general education. The responsibilities as described in the Chapter Articles of Incorporation are: It shall be the duty of this Committee to make all plans and arrangements for the regular meetings of the Chapter, and it shall promote interest and appreciation through lectures, discussions, exhibits, publications and meetings.

We hope someone is just itching to dive into this opportunity to join our Board and help us all promote bird enjoyment and conservation in our community and state. Please let us know!!! Contact Jaci at [jpw48@cwo.com](mailto:jpw48@cwo.com). We look forward to having you on the team!!

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## TRIP REPORTS

### Lema Ranch on March 4th



Three undaunted Wintu Audubon birders braved an incoming storm on the morning of March 4th for a quick trip around the ponds at Lema Ranch. It was very birdy to start but as the winds strengthened and clouds lowered, everything started to hunker down. We were treated with good looks at a Merlin high up in the oaks, a dependable Wilson's Snipe at Mule Pond and several Lewis's Woodpeckers along the south side of Lema Pond. A

respectable 35 species were tallied on the short chilly walk.

### Mary Lake on March 9th



Three determined participants showed up at Mary Lake despite the threat of rain. A half hour into the trip, freezing cold rain caused the shivering trip leader to call it a wash after 16 species were spotted. Larry valiantly carried on, completing the loop around the lake, ultimately counting 33 soggy species. We did manage to see Wood Ducks and a couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers, which

were the theme of this bird walk in a City of Redding park.

### Payne's Creek Wetlands on March 25th

Nine enthusiastic birders enjoyed great weather, casual walking, and boundless views. On this half-day event we finished with total species count of 58. With all the recent rains, there was water everywhere filling many seasonal ponds. We started at Bass Pond for Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret. We moved to the east end of the ponds to make our approach with the sun to our back and to finish up at the main parking area. We made great raptor observations of Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle,



Cooper's, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin. Swallows seen in large numbers which included Tree, Barn, Cliff, and Violet-green. As we narrowed down to the last two ponds, our observations concentrated down to Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted and Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-wing Teal, Ruddy Duck, Common

Goldeneye, and Lesser Scaup. Along a large section of reeds on the south edge of our last pond on the main trail, we saw Marsh Wren, Savannah, Lincoln, Song Sparrow, and heard a Sora. At the end of our walk the temperature warmed up nicely where many songbird species started coming out to be counted as well.

## **Volunteer Opportunity for Kid's Birding Event**

Wintu Audubon Society will be teaming up with the Shasta Land Trust as part of their Wildways program to present the following event on Saturday, May 20th from 9 – 11am. Nature-loving children can enjoy a morning learning about Redding's incredible bird populations at the Lillian Nelson Nature Preserve. Children will get a demonstration in bird identification techniques and learn about a variety of species present at the 30-acre preserve led by hosts from the Wintu Audubon Society and Spring Rivers Foundation. Explore and participate in nature studies and art projects at the riparian habitat and oak woodlands at this unique conserved land within the greater Redding urban area. Binoculars will be available to borrow from the Wintu Audubon Society. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For children ages 6-12. Parent/guardian must accompany.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-bird-watching-at-the-preserve-tickets-593250376847>

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the activities tables. On-site training will be provided. Please contact Education Chair Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) or call 530-246-4404 if you would like to help.

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 "Go Listen to the Cattails"

