



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**

May 2023



Emily Wells is the Conservation Program Manager for Conservation Farms and Ranches, The Nature Conservancy's related entity managing California's Staten Island. She first started working on Staten as a temporary avian technician in 2013 and left to pursue her masters degree in Range and Wildlife Management at Texas A&M Kingsville where she studied the wintering ecology of the Gulf Coast subpopulation of Sandhill Cranes. Once her studies were complete, she came back to Staten Island where she helped coordinate the farming and conservation land management, conduct research into waterbird use of different crops and management techniques, and help manage projects aimed at improving the conservation value and resiliency of Staten Island into the future.

Wintu Audubon is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: The Nature Conservancy's Emily Wells on Sandhill Cranes

Time: May 10, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88523101567>

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: David Garza, Evan Giroskey, Kaye Woodworth, Dan Greaney, Christina Strickland, Mary Severson and Dan Bye. Thank You!

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

Wintu Audubon Board Openings

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. We look forward to having you on the team!!

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.

MAY ACTIVITIES

Dye Creek Preserve - May 6th @ 6:30 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 for more information.

Kum Bay Xerel Trail - May 11th @ 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 for more information.

Burney Falls State Park - May 20th @ 9:00 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 for more info.



Kid's Bird Watching at the Preserve - May 20th 9 to 11:00 am

Bring the kids and grandkids to this free event! 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. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-bird-watching-at-the-preserve-tickets-593250376847>

Wintu Audubon Annual Picnic - June 14th @ 6:00 pm



Join us for our traditional end of the season picnic at the Camden House in the Tower House Historic District at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 14th. It is located on the south side of Highway 299 West just west of the turnoff to French Gulch. Bring your own brown bag dinner and we will eat by the creek and then go birding on the Camden Water Ditch Trail. This

is a one-mile dirt trail that loops around the historic Camden House, Tenant Farm House, barn and outbuildings. Hiking boots are recommended. We hope to see Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, and maybe an American Dipper. An entrance pass is required to use the area and can be purchased online at [Your Pass Now](#). Senior, Access, Military and the Interagency Annual Pass can also be used. Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com for more information.

Lassen Volcanic National Park Campout - July 21st - 23rd



We have enjoyed the birding and camping at the Lost Creek Group Campground for several years, so we are scheduling this event again this year in conjunction with Altacal Audubon. Due to the extended snow pack we have scheduled the event later than usual. Group Camp sites #3 and 4 have been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 21st and Saturday, July 22nd. Campers can arrive at the campsite at a time of their choosing on Friday after 1pm and must break camp by noon Sunday. We are inviting the Redwood Region, Peregrine, Mendocino, Plumas and Redbud

Chapters to join us. Species expected include Bald Eagle, Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Vaux's Swift, Common Nighthawk, Bufflehead, Gray Jay, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager and Cassin's Finch. We will meet at the Loomis Museum parking lot at 8am sharp on Saturday morning to bird Manzanita Lake to be immediately followed by our yearly chapter picnic at the Lost Creek Campground. The rest of the itinerary is open and will depend on the interests of the participants. Folks can either camp at Lost Creek or drive up for either or both Saturday and Sunday. Vaccinated Saturday day trippers should meet at the Kutra's Park meeting place at 7:00 am Saturday morning to car pool or at the Loomis Museum parking lot at 8am sharp. Day trippers for Sunday, June 20th, will meet at the campsite at 8:00 am. Lost Creek has primitive facilities; vault toilets and no electricity. Potable water is available. Information on fees can be found here: <https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/fees.htm> Contact Larry Jordan, 949-5266 or email - webmaster@wintuadubon.org for other particulars.

TRIP REPORTS

Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary on April 6th



A three-hour walk on April 6 yielded 50 bird species for a group of eight birders. We could have stayed on the Sundial Bridge all day, watching a pair of Mourning Doves build a flimsy stick nest in a tree fork or the Cliff Swallows bringing mouthfuls of mud to their gourd-shaped nests underneath the bridge. A mother squirrel relocating her babies from

one tree to another vied for our attention to the lovely Nashville Warblers in the nearby willows. We had good looks at Hermit Thrush, Northern Flicker, and California Towhee in a grassy open space. It was a mellow, unhurried morning, enjoying the bird sanctuary.

Battle Creek Wildlife Area on April 8th



Three committed birders were provided with great weather with many ponds filled from recent early spring climate patterns after a long drought period. We completed our journey with a total number of 68 species, touring through the two trails of this very diverse riparian/mixed woods/wetland area. We started on the posted 'Oaktree Trail' which began our survey of two active ponds with Cinnamon Teal, Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Wilson Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and our poster bird for the day, the American Bittern. Circling back around on the same trail to the west we encountered Northern Flicker, Acorn, Nuttall's, and Downy Woodpecker. Continuing on, the activity increased among the trees

with Lesser and American Goldfinch, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and high numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers. We switched over to the posted 'Coleman Fish Hatchery Trail' on the east end where Western Kingbird were there to greet us. All followed by Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Ruddy Duck, Green Heron, coveys of California Quail, Black and Say's Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows. We were able to capture the siting of one adult Bald Eagle next to their nest with two hatchlings, a Red-shouldered Hawk in the distance, several Turkey Vulture, and our last species at the end of the trail, an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 15th

On a cool morning with no wind and clear skies, three very excited birders found 68 species on a five hour tour of the ponds and the river adjacent to Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Several species of waterfowl were found in the one active pond including Green-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup. A majestic squadron of American White Pelicans in full regalia flew overhead, landing in the river. Bullock's Orioles hung in the trees like Christmas ornaments, Orange-crowned Warblers were abundant but the Yellow-rumped Warblers outnumbered them

four to one. The best bird of the day was eventually identified as a Gray Flycatcher! A lifer for all!

Earth Day Festival on April 22nd



Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) organized a new Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 22, for the participation of noncommercial, not-for-profit groups such as Wintu Audubon Society. We had a booth that featured our nest box trail program and children could stop in to craft a bluebird picture with their handprints or use crayons to color a bluebird drawing. The family-oriented festival featured many local nature-oriented

organizations encouraging conservation and the value of spending time outdoors.

Mary Lake on April 29th



David Garza guided five excellent birders as they explored Mary Lake and surrounds to find 47 species on a calm, mild day. The day began with a lost Snow Goose and several warblers at the trailhead. Love was in the air as Tree Swallows and Wood Ducks were mating in plain view. Western Tanagers and a male Black-headed Grosbeak showed up as well as an Orange-crowned, a Nashville and two

Wilson's Warblers. Hooded Orioles were very interested in a palm tree on the north end of the lake and appeared to be looking for a nest site. To top it all off, the upper pond gave up three Killdeer and a Green Heron.ephemeral pond.

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 "Scrub-Jay: the Elegant Bully."