



# ***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**

**June 2022**



Join us for our final activities before the summer hiatus. Due to the normally high temperatures and less bird activity in the summer months, Wintu Audubon has traditionally avoided scheduling outings in July and August and resumed activities in September. As September approaches you should receive the next newsletter as we resume our fall schedule of presentations and birding activities.

**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.**



## JUNE ACTIVITIES

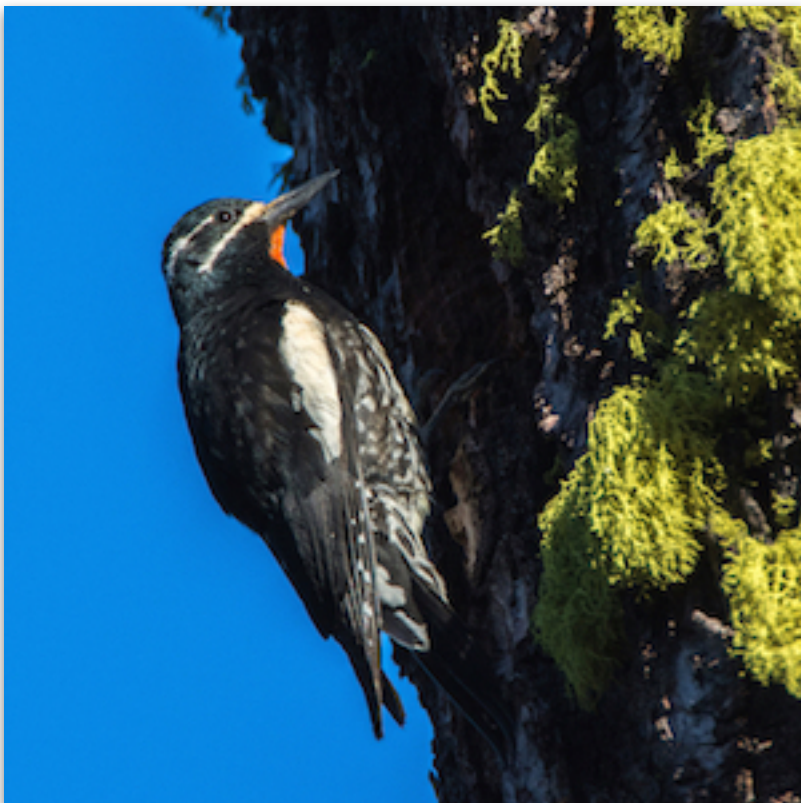
### Wintu Audubon Annual Picnic - June 8th @ 6:00 pm



Join us for the return of a long-standing tradition! For many years, the last general meeting before our summer hiatus was held at the Tower House Historic District in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The 2018 Carr Fire and then the pandemic put the tradition on hold for the past three years. We will restart the tradition by meeting at the parking lot for the Tower House Historic District at 6:00 pm on Wednesday,

June 8th. 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](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

### Lassen Volcanic National Park Campout - June 24 - 26th



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. Group Camp sites #5 and 6 have been reserved for the nights of Friday, June 24th and Saturday, June 25th. 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. We will meet at the Loomis Museum parking lot

at 8am sharp on Saturday morning to bird Manzanita Lake. 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. Contact Larry Jordan, 949-5266 or email - [webmaster@wintuadubon.org](mailto:webmaster@wintuadubon.org) for other particulars.

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## TRIP REPORTS - photos by Larry Jordan and Dan Bye

### Battle Creek State Wildlife Area



Six birders and leader Tricia Ford hiked the two-mile Salmon Trail from Battle Creek Wildlife Area to Coleman Fish Hatchery. Among the highlights: an elusive Yellow-breasted Chat sat still just long enough to be photographed by Dan Bye, a Black-crowned Night Heron flew directly in front of us, and four species of warblers serenaded us at various locations. The Bald Eagle pair made an appearance, but they are nesting

in a location unknown to us since we discovered that their traditional nesting tree near the hatchery has blown down. A total of 48 species were seen on this lovely, breezy spring morning.

### Birding Manzanita Lake



Four determined birders found thirty-five species around Manzanita Lake. A clear chilly morning turned into a rather balmy day which included views of Hermit and Yellow Warblers and a few Golden-crowned Kinglets! The group began the trek watching a couple Ravens harassing one of the resident Bald

Eagles! Just a preview for the June Campout!

### McArthur-Burney Falls State Park Outing



Five dedicated birders gathered at Burney Falls to watch the yearly Black Swifts as they darted in and around the falls. Several American Dippers were also seen climbing the moss-covered rocks around the falls. Thirty-five species were observed including a couple of Cassin's Vireos in the



parking lot, a visit from a Pileated Woodpecker at lunch, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Hermit Warblers on the Rim Trail on the way to Lake Britton where we spotted a flock of seventeen White-faced Ibis!

## Mary Lake Bird Walk



A small group of four birders explored the nooks and crannies of Mary Lake and its adjacent pond to find a thriving Wood Duck population (10 adults and two ducklings), a Pied-billed Grebe with three black, white and orange-striped chicks riding on its back, a Willow Flycatcher and several Yellow Warblers for a total of 28 species observed.



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 "[Red-winged Blackbirds: Tule Tycoons.](#)"



## Saving Turtle Bay

Thanks to all of you for writing letters to the City Council, and for attending the City Council Meeting on April 19th, letting them know your thoughts on the Rodeo Grounds and Civic Auditorium land at Turtle Bay. Thanks to the public's voices, the City Council decided not to designate the land as surplus at this time. It was decided that the city would pay for its own Specific Plan. Wintu Audubon has written to the City Council letting them know we wish to be part of the planning at its early stages to ensure protection of our beloved riparian habitat at Turtle Bay.

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We are mourning the loss of one of our founding members, Bill Oliver, who was one of the most giving people I have ever known. Bill was a mentor to so many beginning birders and experienced birders alike. We will miss him very much. We hope to see you to celebration his life at one of his favorite Redding establishments, Woody's Brewing Company. See the announcement below.

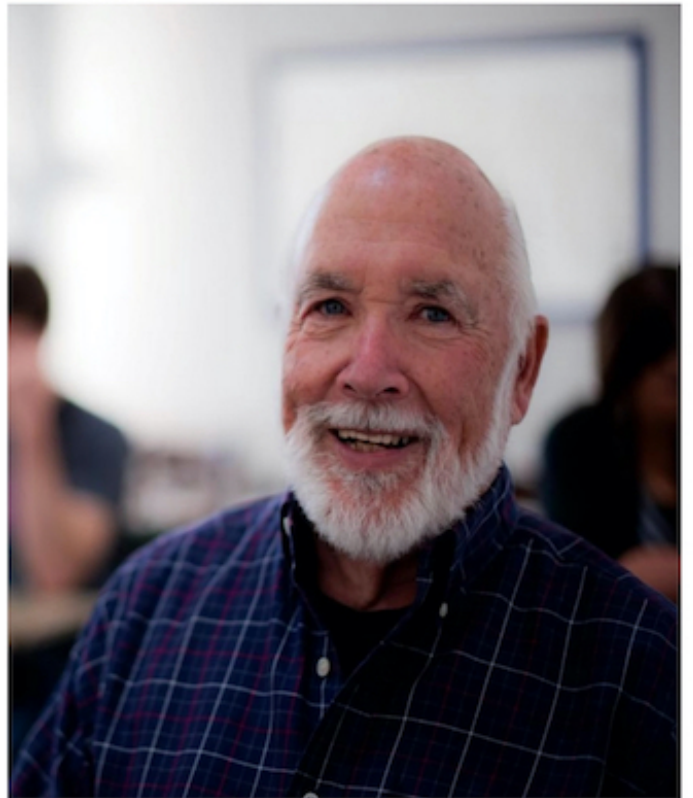
*Bill*

WILLIAM WENDELL OLIVER  
1934-2022

Please join us in remembering Bill and  
celebrating his life on his 88th birthday.

Saturday June 18, 2022 at 3 pm

Woody's Brewing Company  
1257 Oregon St | Redding, CA



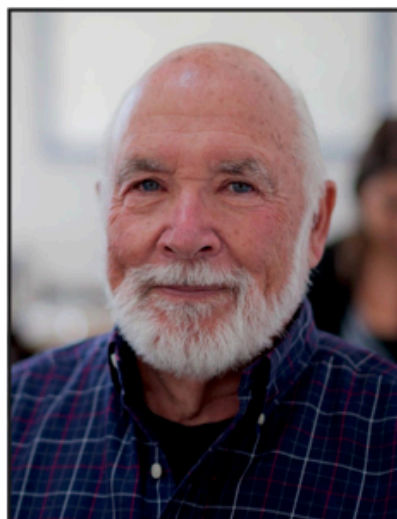


## William Oliver

REDDING - June 18, 1934- May 3, 2022

William Wendell Oliver passed away on May 3, 2022 at home, surrounded by family, after a battle with cancer.

Bill was born in Trenton, New Jersey on June 18, 1934, to Wendell and Mary Oliver. Bill grew up in Morristown, along with his sisters Lucille and Miriam. Raised as a Quaker, he was taught a reverence for the natural world which led to his lifelong love of birds, plants, and trees. After graduating from The Westtown School in 1952, Bill went on to study forestry at the University of New Hampshire earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1956. He then hitchhiked west to his first job at a fire lookout in Montana and later worked with the US Forest Service in the Umpqua National Forest. Bill soon enrolled at the University of Michigan, working and studying on the Upper Peninsula, and earning a master's degree in Forestry in 1960.



In 1962, Bill was hired as a Research Silviculturist by the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the US Forest Service and assigned to the Berkeley lab. After a year in Berkeley, where he met and married Florence Creely, Bill was assigned to the Redding lab upon its opening in 1963. Bill and Florie made their home in Old Shasta, where they welcomed and raised their son, David. Bill continued his work with the Pacific Southwest Research Station for the next 40 years, conducting research on the growth and yield of Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer forests throughout Northern California and participating in overseas projects in South America and the Pacific Islands. Bill initiated research studies which continue more than 50 years later and served as the administrator for the Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest for decades. He was an expert on Ponderosa Pine forests and would happily explain to anyone that asked the details of how to differentiate between a Ponderosa Pine and a Jeffrey Pine. After his retirement in 2002, Bill continued to serve as Emeritus Scientist and act as a resource for his colleagues.

On a trip to Chile in 1982, Bill met Ximena Merino. They later married and Bill brought Ximena to Redding along with her son Paul. They remained married until Ximena's death in 2015.

Bill's lifelong passion for birds led him to help found the Wintu Audubon Society in 1975; he served as president of the society on four different occasions and was the coordinator for the annual Christmas Bird Count for 45 years. Bill led countless bird walks over the years, compiled statistics, and helped introduce others to his love of birding. In 2021, Bill was honored by the Shasta Environmental Alliance with the Environmental Champion Award for his work as a citizen scientist. By his family and friends, Bill will be remembered for his bread baking (with often mixed results), interest in native plants, Buckwheat Griddle Cakes, sailing in the Whiskeytown Regatta with his friend Bert Spears, passionate opinions, classical music played at deafening levels, wry observations, and gentle spirit.

Bill is survived by his son David, stepson Paul, sisters Lucille Koenig and Miriam Swartz, his nieces and nephews, many cherished friends and colleagues, and his beloved Cairn Terrier Jean Luc.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Bristol Hospice, especially his nurse Grayson Gitchell, for their kind care for Bill during his final months.

Bill's final resting place will be among the trees at Blacks Mountain; memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Wintu Audubon Society, PO Box 994533 Redding CA 96099.

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