



# ***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**

**September 2023**



Larry Jordan has been enthralled with birds since he spotted a Burrowing Owl in his Oak Run driveway on the way home one evening over 30 years ago. He didn't know what the bird was so he bought his first field guide and opened up a whole new world of wonder. Since that evening he has been involved in several endeavors to protect birds and advance the joy of birding. He started his own birding blog in 2007 and also posted to the well known 10000 Birds blog. Larry joined Wintu Audubon Society, became the webmaster for the organization, and began photographing birds in 2008. Please join our webmaster as he highlights some of his favorite bird photos from the last fifteen years. Don't be surprised if there may be a few short videos as well.

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

Topic: Some of Larry Jordan's Favorite Bird Photos.

Time: Sep 13, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89075919908>

Meeting ID: 890 7591 9908

## **A Message From Our President - Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara**

In this month's newsletter, you get to read about last year's trips and activities from our officers and committee chairs. Tricia Ford, our Education Chair, is ever busy coming up with ideas and events for young birders, and our Membership Chair, Randy Bush, keeps our donation-based memberships in order, as well as conducting the Redding Christmas Bird Count! The versatile Catherine Camp, who was Program Chair and is now our Treasurer, found some fascinating programs every month. Now Catherine has taken over the duties of our past Treasurer, Beth Brockman. Thank you Beth, for all your hard work and dedication for the past seven years, ensuring that we paid our bills on time, keep our finances in order, and engaged in important fundraising events such as Giving Tuesday every year. This leads to the obvious fact that we now need a new Program Chair. As you can see, we are a busy bunch, but it is only possible thanks to your continued support by way of volunteering and/or donating. This September, I hope you will continue to support our advocacy work and all the great activities we bring to you, with a \$20-\$30 donation. Your support is important, especially at a time when birds are increasingly facing habitat and migration challenges. Thank you!

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

Your contributions support:

- Multiple monthly bird walks September thru May
- Monthly presentations September thru May
- Lassen National Park birding campout
- Redding area nestbox placement and monitoring
- Burrowing Owl nest placement and monitoring
- Western Bluebird Climate Watch Surveys
- Audubon California Advocacy Day participation
- Bird safety input on local wind power projects and other developments
- Classroom outreach to elementary school teachers and students
- Tricolored Blackbird Project
- Programs at the Whole Earth and Watershed Festivals, including youth nestbox building
- Programs at the Return of the Salmon Festival
- Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Project

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! These are our recent generous donors: Karen Foss, Dan Bye, Doug Mandel, Jaclyn White, George Horn, Larry Jordan, and Dawn Smith. Thank You!

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



## A Message From Our Past Program Chair - Catherine Camp

We provide member programs monthly from September through May. We have had beautiful bird photography presentations, based on local birds and on travels. Reports on bird projects, including on the reintroduction of condors; on research on the impact of wildfire smoke on migration; and on the mating behavior of woodpeckers. We have had a report on the owl banding project funded by Wintu Audubon member contributions. Most programs are accessed by zoom and are archived for later viewing as well.

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Catherine is now our Treasurer! **WE NEED A NEW PROGRAM CHAIR!** If you are interested in getting more involved with our organization and can spend a few hours a month lining up presenters for the remainder of our season, please contact [Catherine Camp](#).

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## A Message From Our Conservation Chair - Bruce Webb

The Conservation Committee, chaired by Bruce Webb, has been busy in 2022-23 with important opportunities for advocacy on behalf of birds, wildlife and habitat, including most notably the ongoing revision of the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan, and the Redding 2045 General Plan Update. The Riverfront Specific Plan is controversial and of importance because of the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary and adjacent sensitive riparian areas. The 2045 General Plan revision and EIR is a very important proposal affecting wildlife in, and adjacent to, the Redding urban and suburban wildlife communities. We have recently filed numerous comment letters on these issues; as well as advocating and commenting on the new Redding Tree Ordinance, Wind Farm proposals in eastern Shasta County and many projects of smaller scope. We'll continue to advocate for wildlife conservation as each project moves toward approval and implementation.



Photo of Tree Swallow in Nest with Newly Hatched Young by Larry Jordan

A great big THANK YOU to all of our NestWatch 2023 volunteers! Larry Jordan, Ellen Busch, Tricia Ford, and John Winchell did an excellent job monitoring our 70 nest boxes this past season. We had a total of 78 nesting attempts, 358 eggs were laid, 303 young hatched and 276 young birds fledged. Considering the high temperatures we had during the last month or so of the season, this was a good year. Because of these dedicated nestwatch volunteers, we have 17 more Oak Titmice, 35 more Ash-throated Flycatchers, 77 more Western Bluebirds and 147 more Tree Swallows to enjoy! Here is a link to a video showing how hard these birds work to give us the joy we get from them. It shows the entire nest activity of an Eastern Bluebird from nest building to the young fledging, sped up to last 3 minutes and 20 seconds.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@nestboxlive/video/7243400100028910875>

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## **A Message From Our Field Trip Chair - Tim Kashuba**

Last season was extraordinary with above normal precipitation and a cool June that resulted in great numbers and a variety of birds observed on our Wintu field trips. We ventured to more than 20 different locations in Butte, Tehama and Shasta Counties. Adventures varied from half-day weekday trips visiting local City parks to the annual overnight camp out in Lassen Park. Check our [back issues of Wintu Audubon's Chirp-n-Chatter newsletter](#) for detailed trip reports. We are looking forward to see if the Fall/Winter 23/24 birding season reflects the diversity of the Spring migration. We have new locations and trip leaders scheduled for the upcoming outings and field trips, we look forward to seeing you all out on your favorite patch!

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## **SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES**

### **Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - September 9th @ 7:30 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 7:30 am sharp 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 south, after

crossing Clear Creek and past the Win-River Casino, take the second left turn at River Ranch Road and cross over the railroad tracks. Turn left on Eastside Rd. Entrance is at 2200 Metz Road on the right.



## **Lema Ranch - September 16th @ 7:00 am**



Join Wintu Audubon Society for a bird walk around Lema Ranch on Saturday, September 16th at 7:00 am. We will be birding the oak woodlands and ponds at the Ranch on fairly level paved paths. Depending on the weather, we will bird the Mule Loop and possibly the longer Leah's loop route. We expect some late summer birds and early migrants and waterfowl. Bring water and a

snack. Park and meet at the north end of Lema Road.

## **Nur Pon Open Space - September 23rd @ 8:00 am**



Join Wintu Audubon Society for a bird walk around Nur Pon on Saturday, September 23rd at 8:00 am. Nur Pon, or "Salmon Run" in the Wintu language, was once known as Henderson Open Space before the City of Redding and numerous other agencies began a restoration project that established a side channel along the Sacramento River for salmon spawning. The parkland has been

cleared of debris, much of the nonnative vegetation has been removed, the area fenced and secured, and more restoration work is underway. Wintu Audubon Education Chair Tricia Ford will lead the easy walk of approximately 1.5 miles, taking about three hours to identify the birds of river and oak woodland. Binoculars will be available for loan. Hiking boots are recommended for the river cobble. Bring water and a snack. Nur Pon is off Hartnell Avenue at the intersection of Parkview Avenue and Henderson Road on the east side of the river. Park behind the Cobblestone Shopping Center (once the site of Raley's Supermarket) inside the wrought iron fence.

## **Red Bluff Recreation Area in on Sale Lane Red - September 30th @ 7:30**



Please join us on a journey with many trails at this very diverse public land with no fees. Sacramento River bisects 488 acres at this Recreation Area of riparian forest, flowering grasslands, wetlands, and oak woodlands, providing very diverse

nature viewing experiences. This location is Tehama Region's number one eBird's hotspot. This is great home for many varieties of Sparrows, Warblers, Wrens, Woodpeckers, Waterfowl, Wading Birds, and Shorebirds. Yellow-billed Magpies and Phainopeplas are often found here year-round. Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 7:30am. We will meet at the parking lot at the south end of Sale Lane at the Sacramento River Discovery Center.

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## **A Message From Our Education Chair Tricia Ford**

The education arm of the society presented birdwatching programs for children at Bend Elementary School, the Cub Scouts, the Local Indians for Education summer camp, and Kid's Birdwatching Day. We had booths and activities for the whole family at the Martin Luther King, Jr. event, the Return of the Salmon Festival, and the Earth Day Festival. Education Chair Tricia Ford completed the Birds of the Sacramento River Valley lessons available for teachers on our website and led nine bird walks open to the public at various City of Redding parks and trails.

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## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Dye Creek Preserve on May 6th**



Three excited birders enjoyed a beautiful day at Dye Creek Preserve with perfect weather conditions. We found a singing Canyon Wren, Wilson's and Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Buntings. All in all we tallied 32 species and enjoyed some incredible views of the canyon.

### **Kum Bay Xerel Trail on May 11th**



Once known as Riverland Drive Open Space, the area has been renamed in recognition of the Native American Wintu people in our community. Kum Bay Xerel means "Shady Oak Village" and now has a parking area and a paved, accessible trail of approximately one mile. Tricia Ford and Clinton Kane led a half dozen excited birders as we found 42 species including three Warbling Vireos, three Warbler

species and a half dozen American White Pelicans!



## Burney Falls State Park May 20th



Burney Falls is always a fun birding destination, especially in May when the Black Swifts are nesting. Dan Bye led two separate walks, one along the falls trail after which we stopped for lunch, followed by the trail down to Lake Britton. We saw eight Black Swifts flying over the falls, three Osprey and two Bald Eagles. Several Warbler species were spotted including

excellent views of one of the Hermit Warblers on the trail.

## Kid's Bird Watching Day May 20th



On a warm Saturday morning at the Lillian Nelson Nature Preserve in Redding, Wintu Audubon Society, Shasta Land Trust, and Spring Rivers Foundation welcomed 15 children and 17 parents to the first Kid's Birdwatching Day. There were four stations to keep the kids engaged and to learn about birds. At the bird walk station, everyone received binoculars and a short

lesson in using them. It turned out to be a bird listening walk rather than a bird watching walk because many songs and calls were heard, but very few birds were actually seen. After the walk, the families enjoyed looking at the dozen real bird nests and discussing the wide range of materials that birds use to make their nests. Next came a generous snack while reading children's books about nests and nestlings. At the bird identification station, kids learned the names of local birds and their characteristic songs and calls. At the art station, children chose a brightly colored bandana to have imprinted with the footprints of birds such as the Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, or American Coot. Before they left, families took home crayons and bird coloring pages to work on later. We are looking forward to having a similar event next year!





## Wintu Audubon Picnic at Whiskeytown NRA Tower House District June 14th



A dozen birders munched on their brown bag dinners at the edge of Clear Creek while listening to bird calls in the cool of the evening. Two nests of Bullock's Orioles were spotted in the trees above the picnic area along with their occupants, as well as a pair of Western Kingbirds and an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Four different swallow species were found, including Cliff Swallows nesting

under the highway 299 bridge and a dozen Northern Rough-winged Swallows which conveniently posed for photographs in the creekside shrubbery. The walk to the orchard and the old mine site yielded a squawking Green Heron, Western Tanagers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks for a total of 29 species seen or heard as dusk fell on the Gold Rush era buildings of Whiskeytown.

## Annual Campout at Lassen Volcanic National Park June 21st -23rd



A large group of campers at Lassen Park this year enjoyed a couple of excellent birding days starting off with a walk around Manzanita Lake. The walk began with a flurry of Hermit Warblers and an American Dipper on Manzanita Creek. Spring was in the air as several birds were tending their young, including a pair of nesting Western Wood-Peepees feeding their young. Not far from the nesting Peewees were a group of five Red Cross-bills. As we continued around the lake we encountered Red-breasted Sapsuckers with young and American Coots feeding their

red-headed crop. Probably one of the highlights of the campout was when Jennifer Patten called in a Northern Spotted Owl that perched in the trees above the campers!