



# 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

## November 2021

### NUR PON OPEN SPACE



Join us for this month's presentation as Kim Niemer, the City of Redding Community Services Director, presents the history of the Nur Pon Open Space (previously known as Henderson Open Space) from its historical use and the challenges and successes over the last ten years, to its present day configuration. Kim oversees Recreation, Park, Trails and Open Space Planning & Development, Parks Maintenance, Libraries, Communications and Public Art. She administers the management agreements for the Civic Auditorium, Big League Dreams and the Redding Soccer Park.

**Wednesday, November 10th at 7PM - Link**

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84407078689](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84407078689)

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.

If you haven't been to our website recently, be sure to check out the latest "BirdWord" article from our ex-president and still director-at-large, Dan Greaney, titled "Brewer's Blackbirds" at <https://www.wintuadubon.org/brewers-blackbirds/>



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Covid has changed our lives in ways we couldn't have imagined. Before my life as Wintu Audubon President, I lived in downtown Los Angeles in a beautiful condo where I was sure I would retire and live out the rest of my days. One day everything changed. I lost my job and began the search for a new opportunity mid-pandemic. I soon had interviews and job offers, but there was one I couldn't resist in Redding. The day after undergoing a grueling day of interviews, the hiring manager asked me to take a walk along the Sacramento River with him. He let me know they were going to make me an offer the next day. "This is a huge move for you." He said. "Tonight, go out, get to know Redding some. Think long and hard if moving here is what you want."

That afternoon, I went to the Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay Museum, I walked myself silly covering the grounds deciding my future. I have travelled the world some, and in this place, I quickly recognized the uniqueness of the city. Its people had a reverence for nature and the unpaved like I had never experienced before. Nature had an unthreatened home here. As a birder I couldn't ask for more. It was this breathtaking landscape with its vibrant wildlife, which made it easy for me to say to my soon-to-be employer, "Yes! I'm moving to Redding. I accept the offer." I even saw one of Redding's Bald Eagles everyone kept talking about. That was a lifer for me—don't forget I am from urban Los Angeles. We certainly have birds in LA, but not Bald Eagles. You don't know how fortunate you are to be able to see them often. Since that day, I've seen Bald Eagles several times, and each time is better than the last, a reminder of that respect this community has for the habitat of all the amazing creatures which thrive in it when other cities are tearing their natural treasures down, paving and building, though, in the last two years, we have witnessed how frail a concrete environment is.

In metropolitan cities, given our high rate of Covid and our close proximity, we were scared

and weary to even go get our mail. Our fear was warranted. In those days, there wasn't a day you didn't hear of someone you knew who had passed. But I remember this one day, my hiking buddies and I messaged each other, "let's go see if Deb's Park is open." Armed with masks, sanitizing gel and distance, we went. When we got there, Deb's Park's gates were closed. That didn't stop dozens of people from accessing the grounds, they crawled under the fences. People were not breaking into buildings; they were breaking into parks. The most unlikely people were turned into runners, hikers, birders, nature lovers. What a testament to our open spaces.

I have now been living here a year come November, and I haven't regretted my decision once. Some days are melancholy, I miss my friends, my family, and yes, my condo in a high-rise. But when I do, I go to Turtle Bay and walk the grounds to remember why I whole-heartedly decided to move here. Now, this land is at-risk of being sold to a developer, who envisions a vibrant riverfront with shops and restaurants sacrificing the rich eco-system we all hold sacred. It is heartbreaking that this possibility even exists, but know that Wintu Audubon is in the forefront of this threat. In addition to our efforts, the City of Redding is asking for input from residents, so I ask that you voice your opinion on the matter via their in-person workshops, online surveys, letters or emails. Spread the word. Reach out to one of us if you want to vent, raise questions or have input. No opinion is too small.

(Link: <https://cityofredding.civilspace.io/en/projects/redding-civic-auditorium-rodeo-grounds-workshops>)(Contact City Council: <https://www.cityofredding.org/city-council/contact-the-city-council>)

Thank you all for your continued support.

With that, I leave you with one of my favorite poems on what a removal of a single tree represents.

Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara  
Wintu Audubon President

## TODAY, ANOTHER UNIVERSE

by Jane Hirshfield

The arborist has determined:

senescence    beetles    canker

quickenened by drought

but in any case

not prunable not treatable not to be propped.

And so.

The branch from which the sharp-shinned  
hawks and their mate-cries.

The trunk where the ant.

The red squirrels' eighty foot playground.

The bark cambium pine-sap cluster of needles.

The Japanese patterns    the ink-net.

The dapple on certain fish.

Today, for some, a universe will vanish.

First noisily,  
then just another silence.

The silence of *after*, once the theater has  
emptied.

Of bewilderment after the glacier,  
the species, the star.

Something else, in the scale of quickening  
things,  
will replace it,  
this hole of light in the light, the puzzled birds  
swerving around it.



**Board Meetings are held on the first  
Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM on  
Zoom.**

**Wintu Audubon Society General Meetings  
are held on the second Wednesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

Zoom meeting invitations are sent to all folks that  
are on our email list and listed on our Calendar page

Covid19 is currently increasing in Shasta  
County and the transmission level is rated as  
"High." The complete Shasta County  
information can be found at  
[https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/ready/covid-19/  
overview](https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/ready/covid-19/overview).

You can find the updated "Guidance for the Use  
of Face Coverings" [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/  
Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/  
guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx). We are  
anxious to begin public birding activities and  
field trips again as soon as the Shasta County  
caseload decreases to a safe level.

Check out one of our videos of "A Gathering of  
Species at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge" on  
our YouTube page here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=rlafwjHdE6g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlafwjHdE6g)



Hopefully you have been vaccinated and  
may therefore be able to engage in activities  
with other vaccinated people. Thank you for  
keeping our community a safer place by  
wearing a mask when necessary and following  
social distancing guidelines. We look forward to  
a time when we can all come together again  
safely.

**Our board is currently suspending field trips as  
we contemplate the COVID risk and Federal  
State, and County recommendations.**



Meet Erika Iacona, one of our new Directors-at-Large. Erika studied environmental science at the University of New England, worked for the National Park Service and is a local natural science environmental planner at Caltrans. Luckily for us, she is in the process of planning a local Northern Saw-whet Owl banding station!

Why is a Northern Saw-whet Owl migration research program important? Initially these successful predators were thought to be uncommon however, they were not easily detected due to their nocturnal and cryptic behavior, small size, and nomadic lifestyle. Research now tells us that saw-whets are one of the most common forest owls in North America. Thanks to long-term monitoring by Project OwlNet cooperators, we have more knowledge about the owls' migratory behavior across Canada and the central and eastern US. What has been missing are monitoring stations in the western US, and that is where the Wintu Audubon station could play a key role. The Shasta County banding station will be the fourth Northern Saw-whet Owl research station in the state of California. To obtain a clearer picture of NSWOW population in the West, our results

should be compared with those of other stations regionally. Our contribution to the continent-wide Project OwlNet will remain valuable in understanding the trends of this North American species.

The station will be committed to facilitating the study of migrating owls in a way that optimizes the cooperative nature of bird banding and facilitates easy comparison of data from a wide variety of stations. While much of this information is specific to Northern Saw-whet Owls, the basic concepts can be applied to any owl species.



**FOR THE LATEST WINTU AUDUBON  
SOCIETY NEWS AND BIRDING  
INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
AT**

**[HTTPS://  
WWW.WINTUAUDUBON.ORG](https://www.wintu.audubon.org)**



Bill was a founding member of the Wintu Audubon Society, its President four different times, and compiler of the Redding Christmas Bird Count for 45 years. More importantly to myself and many others through the years, Bill has been a mentor to many new birders. Always helping new birders not only identify species in the field but pointing out features of those birds and giving newbies information on what type of habitat in which they may be found. Of course, going on a birding excursion with Bill, you can expect to learn about trees and other habitat as well.

Good luck Bill! We all hope you are the chosen environmental champion this year. You definitely deserve it!

Wintu Audubon Society is proud to nominate Bill Oliver for the 2021 Shasta Environmental Champions Award! Bill, a Pennsylvania native, developed a passion for nature and forests at an early age. Forestry promised more excitement than suburban landscaping that his father practiced. In graduate school he learned that the U.S. Forest Service had a little-known research branch that seemed ideally suited to his career interests of tree physiology and forest ecology.

He arrived in Redding in 1963 with the establishment of a field office of the Pacific Southwest Research Station. His early research centered on the health and vigor of young stands of ponderosa pine and true fir in field studies throughout northern California. Wider spacing of the trees and control of competing vegetation were critically important. Bill devised tree spacing guidelines for various species, sizes, and productivity levels. Much of the tree thinning along Hwy.44 between Old Station and Susanville followed these guides. It turns out that these guides, by removing the smaller trees and separating the crowns of the remaining trees, effectively reduced the fire hazard.

***OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE***

**OFFICERS**

- President:** Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara
- Vice-President:** OPEN
- Treasurer:** Beth Brockman 227-4228
- Recording Secretary:** Jaci White
- Corresponding Secretary:** Jeannette Carroll 246-3634

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Programs:** Catherine Camp
- Education:** OPEN
- Conservation:** Janet Wall 547-1189  
Bruce Webb 515-5324
- Newsletter:** Larry Jordan 472-3131
- Webmaster/Publicity:** Larry Jordan 472-3131
- Membership:** George Horn 244-0581
- Field Trips:** Tim Kashuba

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

- Harvey Carroll, Dan Greaney, Marti Weidert, Bill Oliver, Connie Word, Bea Currie, Erika Iacona, Roberta Winchell and John Winchell



P.O. Box 994533  
REDDING, California 96099-4533



# ***CHIRP-N-CHATTER***

**November 2021**

