



CHIRP-N-CHATTER **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

President: Bill Oliver

www.wintuadubon.org

Editor: Linda Aldrich

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, November 4 @ 7:00 pm

Meet at the classroom at Turtle Bay. Chapter business will be discussed. All members are welcome.

Second Saturday Bird Walk – Saturday, November 8 @ 8:00 am

Meet your leader Ken Bachman at the parking lot behind the Monolith at Turtle Bay for this half-day trip. Beginners and experienced birders alike will enjoy seeing winter waterfowl on the ponds and river as well as riparian species such as Yellow-rumped Warbler and Spotted Towhee. Bald Eagles and both egrets are possible.

General Meeting – Tuesday, November 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

After a brief business meeting, Bill Kuntz will give a presentation on BLM Trails in Shasta County. The Bureau of Land Management has been very active in recent years in building a network of easily accessible trails including the Clear Creek Greenway, Swasey Recreation area, Sacramento River Rail-Trail, and the Sacramento River Bend Area. Bill Kuntz is in charge of recreation, recreation planning and engineering programs for the BLM Redding Field Office. His presentation will focus on these trails and other areas that are being considered for future trails in Shasta County.

Fall River Outing – Saturday, November 15 @ 7:30 am

Always a high species number destination, the Fall River area is a great place to see wintering raptors, various waterbirds and Sandhill Cranes. Meet your leader Bob Yutzy at the Redding Convention Center. Be ready for a full day with a lunch and water and dress in layers of clothes for changing weather. Those who have family service radios, please bring them. People from the Fall River area (including co-leader Ken Able) will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Fall River Vista. Rarities are possible!

Anderson River Park Outing – Saturday, November 22 @ 8:00 a.m.

Ponds, the Sacramento River, riparian habitat and oak woodlands attract a variety of species to this large park. Often there are opportunities to compare related species side by side, such as Common and Barrows Goldeneye or Great and Snowy Egret. Meet your leader Linda Aldrich at the parking lot behind the amphitheater for this half-day trip.

*****A note on our walks, outings, and field trips:** Wintu Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for accidents. You attend at your own risk. A responsible adult must accompany minors on all outings. Rain cancels all activities. ***

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, December 2 @ 7:00 pm

Meet at the classroom at Turtle Bay. Chapter business will be discussed. All members are welcome.

General Meeting – Tuesday, December 9 @ 7:00 pm

After a brief business meeting, retired instructor, field biologist and photographer Bob Yutzy will present “Hawks & Eagles –

a feast of photos” with some identification commentary. Expect beautiful illustrations and helpful tips for putting the right name on these magnificent birds.

Second Saturday Bird Walk – Saturday, December 13 @ 8:00 am

This open-to-the-general-public outing will meet at Turtle Bay. Gather at the parking lot BEHIND the Monolith. Water birds such as Hooded Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, American Wigeon and American Coots are possible. John Coon will lead.

Fall River Mills Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 14 @ 7:00 a.m.

Meet SUNDAY at the Fall River Hotel for assignments. Let compilers Bob & Carol Yutzy know by e-mail (boby@c-zone.net) if you are planning on eating breakfast with the group at the hotel. Many meet the night before (Saturday) at the hotel for dinner and BYOB wine. Compilation will be between 5 and 6 p.m. at a restaurant in Redding – to be announced.

Anderson Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 20 @ 7:00 a.m.

Meet at the amphitheater parking lot in Anderson River Park for assignments. Rob Santry will be the organizer. A pot luck dinner and compilation will be at the Santrys’ residence.

Redding Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 27 @ 7:00 am

Assignments will be given in front of the main entrance to the Redding Convention Center. Dinner and compilation will be at a restaurant in Redding - to be announced. For further information, contact Bill Oliver at (530) 241-2187.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

These annual events are held dawn to dusk and rain or shine. Novice birders will be teamed up with experienced birders as sighting recorders – it’s a great way to learn the local birds and make a useful contribution. Or, come to a compilation and find out what’s been seen near your own back yard.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Second Saturday Trip Report - The 9/13/08 trip to Shasta College netted 43 species for the three birders who showed up. The best birds were Say’s Phoebe, Lincoln Sparrow, Lewis’s Woodpecker, American Kestrel and a lingering Western Kingbird.

Community Expo 2008 – The Wintu Audubon booth at Mt. Shasta Mall on 9/13 and 9/14 got our message out, earned us some money, and won us the first prize for booth decorations! The prize was a \$100 certificate good at all participating stores in the mall. **We will be raffling off the certificate at the November and December general meetings, with the drawing to be held at the end of the December meeting – be sure and buy tickets – it could be a “leg up” on your Christmas shopping!**

Wintu Officers and Board of Directors

President - Bill Oliver

Vice President – George Horn

Treasurer – Nola Wade

Secretary (Corr.) - Bea Currie

Secretary (Record) – Rose Powder

Conservation – Claudia Yerion

Education – Don Goodykoontz

Newsletter – Linda Aldrich

Webmaster – Larry Jordan

Programs – Open

Membership – George Horn

Publicity – Open

Directors (in addition to Officers and Committee Chairs): Debby Anderson, Ken Bachman, John Coon, Esther Cox, Mike Damoth, Red Modeen, Rob Santry, Connie Word, Bob Yutzy.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE CHAIR VACANCIES

As you can see on our Board roster, a couple of key positions are currently open. If anyone can fill in until Spring when our elections will be held it would be very much appreciated. Especially important is the Publicity Chair who gets our activities and message out to the public. The Programs Chair lines up speakers for our general meetings. For more information (or to volunteer) contact President Bill Oliver at 241-2187.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDING FESTIVALS

Sandhill Crane Festival, Lodi – CA, November 7-9.

Visit www.cranefestival.com. Docent-led tours of the Isenberg Crane Reserve are also available the first three Saturdays and Sundays of the months of October, November and December – call (209)948-7708 or visit www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/3/cranetour.

The 12th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium, Stockton –CA, November 20-23.

Visit www.cvbs.org , or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net or (209) 369-2010.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Where to watch birds in November & December
by Bob Yutzy

Where do we usually find our best winter birds? Fall River and McArthur, Millville Plains, Whiskeytown Lake, Kutras Lake, Lema Ranch, McCumber Lake, and East Turtle Bay are often productive. We should continue to watch the two new rice ponds along Rat Farm Road in McArthur. They have already produced the first county record of Franklin's Gull and one of the few county records of Black-bellied Plover.

Speaking of new areas, last year's longspur hangout on Leopard Lane, off Dersch Road, just past the county Burrowing Owl spot, should be searched and searched for a few Lapland Longspurs in with the Horned Lark flocks. This area is also our best habitat for Chestnut-collared Longspurs and that first county record of Snow Bunting that is just waiting to be discovered! Listen for Screech, Pygmy, Saw-whet, Barn, Great Horned and maybe even a Spotted or perhaps a Barred Owl.

Most feeders already have Juncos, Siskins, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush and maybe even Waxwings. Of course, those consummate bird hawks, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned make their inevitable appearances too. Possible rarities include Pygmy Nuthatch, Purple Finch, or even White-throated Sparrow, Cassin's Finch or Evening Grosbeak; even more rarely, Harris's Sparrow or Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

The best birds to look for away from your feeders are Red-breasted Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, Long Tailed Duck, Tree and Harris's Sparrow, Northern Shrike, Pacific Loon, Greater Scaup and Thayer's, Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Thorough gull watching may get you a Western Gull or possibly even that second county record of a Glaucous Gull, but be aware that gull watching is not for the impatient!

In the Fall River Valley White-fronted Geese are already in, as well as some Snow Geese. Tundra Swans should be in soon, perhaps with the larger Trumpeter Swan. Fall River Valley has Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks as does Millville Plains, along with Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle. Search for the darkest looking birds to find the rare dark phase Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. Kutras Lake and the arboretum area will hopefully have Peregrine Falcon. A Merlin may be in the Sacramento River area.

It's time for my annual reminder to visit one of our incredible refuges, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Tule Lake and Klamath National Wildlife Refuges or Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge between November and February. The thousands and sometimes millions of Snow, Ross, Canada, White-fronted Geese and Tundra Swans are truly breathtaking, especially if you can visit near dusk or dawn.