



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 / December 2010

It's Christmas Bird Count Time

It's that time of year again when we participate in the annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) sponsored by the National Audubon Society. All the birds within a fixed 15-mile diameter circle are counted. The count must be conducted between December 15 and January 5. The Wintu Audubon Society conducts three counts--- Redding, Fall River, and Anderson. A fourth, the Red Bluff CBC, is close by (see specifics under December Activities on page 2 and 3). The present Redding CBC began in 1975, the same year that the Chapter was formed. Even though species numbers fluctuate widely, over the 34 years of the Redding CBC definite population trends are evident for many species.

November Activities

Field Trips

Second Saturday Bird Walk---November 13 @ 8:00 am

This outing is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay to observe the bird life on and around Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake. A great cross section of waders, raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines can be seen close up with usually a surprise or two on this half day walk. Connie Word will lead.

**Local Weekday
Bird Walk---Lema
Ranch, Tuesday,
November 16 @
8:00 am**

Lema Ranch, an oasis of open space in Redding, is excellent year-around birding. The ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell Foundation Headquarters provide an abundance of bird species. We will look for Common Moorhens, rails,

and winter resident ducks and passerines. This will be a 2-3 hour walk on paved trails with fine public restrooms. We will meet at the North Parking Lot off Hemmingway Street. Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View School on Shasta View Drive.

**Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge---Saturday,
November 20 @ 7:30 am**

This nationally-known gem is well-worth the 90-mile drive. Enormous numbers of waterfowl fill

**WINTU A.S. CHAPTER
MEETINGS ARE ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH AT 7:00 PM** in the theatre of the Turtle Bay Exploration Park, 840 Auditorium Drive, Redding.

**BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD
ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM** in the Turtle Bay Exploration Park classroom adjacent to the visitor center. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and new ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 9: Bill & Judee Adams: *Birding Fun in Eastern Australia.*

December 14: Bud & Margaret Widdowson: *The Birds of Northeast India.*

the skies and numerous impoundments in fall and winter. Snow, Ross' and Greater White-fronted Geese, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers and Gadwalls are assured. Other possibilities are White-faced Ibis, Green-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilts and various raptors. We hope to provide 2-way radios to report sightings and alert people in other cars to look for them. Most of the birding is done from cars. Meet at the Redding Convention Center to carpool. Bring a lunch for this full-day trip. Bill Oliver will lead.

A Welcome Improvement!

We now have a microphone available for our General Meetings. Attendees have often complained of trouble hearing especially if seated in the rear. We hope that now all can hear no matter where they are seated.

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 9 @ 7:00 pm
Birding Fun in Eastern Australia

In the summer of 2009 Bill and Judee Adams spent 6+ weeks birding, snorkeling, nature watching and sightseeing in the eastern 1/2 of Australia. They took thousands of photos and a number of video clips of the nature and neat places we visited. Spending most of their time in a rented motor home allowed Bill and Judee to be more flexible in their scheduling. They had a great time, met a lot of really friendly Aussies, and would love to go back.

December Activities

Field Trips

Second Saturday Bird Walk---December 11 @ 8:00 am

We will return to Turtle Bay and Kutrass Lake for its great cross section of waders, raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This 1/2-day walk with

Bea Currie is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome.

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm

The Birds on Northeast India

Join Bud and Margaret Widdowson as they recount their 2006 trip to northeast India. This trip found them exploring the pristine Himalayas visiting Nameri National Park in Assam, the Sangthi Valley, and the focus of the trip: the newly established Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in remote Arunachal Pradesh near the borders with Bhutan and China. The co-discovery of a new bird species, the Bugun Liocichla was the outstanding highlight of a trip with many highlights, including celebrating a feast with the Bugun tribe at Lama Camp, and encountering avian specialties such as Himalayan Monal, Ibisbill, Beautiful Nuthatch, Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler, and Fire-tailed Myzornis.

For the latest Wintu A.S. news and birding information visit our website:

www.wintuadubon.org

Christmas Bird Counts in Local Area

Fall River Christmas Bird Count—Saturday, December 18 @ 7:00 am

Participants will meet at the Fall River Hotel in Fall River Mills for a family-style breakfast and assignments. From Redding, take Hwy. 299E for approximately 75 miles. After crossing the Fall River, take the second right and look for the hotel on the right. Every year, some birders spend the night at this quaint hotel (Phone: 530-336-5550) and avoid the early morning drive. **Eastern Shasta County birders are especially invited to participate.** After the count, dinner and compilation will be in Redding at a location to be announced. RSVP to Bob Yutzy (boby@c-zone.net) so the hotel can be given the number they will be serving for breakfast.

**Red Bluff Christmas Bird Count---Sunday,
December 19 @ 7:30 am**

This long-running count was resumed last year under the able leadership of Karen Scheurermann (karens@gmail.com). Assemble at the Holiday Market, 460 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, for assignments. Dinner and compilation will be announced there.

**Redding Christmas Bird Count---Tuesday,
December, 28 @ 7:00 am**

Assignments will be given in front of the main entrance to the Redding Convention Center. Assemble at dusk at the Sailing Boat Restaurant, 2772 Churn Creek Road, Redding for dinner and compilation. For further information contact Bill Oliver at 530-941-7741 or wwoliver9@gmail.com.

**Anderson Christmas Bird Count---Saturday,
January 1 @ 7:00 am**

This will be our third year for this very successful count that features much public land with ample opportunities for walking. Meet at the amphitheatre parking lot in Anderson River Park for assignments and location of the dinner and compilation. Contact Rob Santry (rsantry@snowcrest.net) for further information.

Please Note: 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 except the Christmas Bird Counts.

Trip Reports

Lema Ranch--- September 21, 2010

A small but enthusiastic group of 4 birders gathered at the Lema Ranch parking lot for a great morning. The temperatures were cool, skies partly cloudy and the birds were out and

active. We saw 50 species, including first-of-season White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Migrating warblers were on the move – we saw Yellow, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers, all so intent on fattening up for their journey that we got very good looks at them. Other "good" birds were Lewis' Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing and Warbling Vireo. The local specialties –Green Heron, Common Moorhen, Lark Sparrow and Great-tailed Grackle – put in appearances. A good time, well spent!

McArthur/Burney Falls State Park---September 25, 2010

Twelve birders spent a beautiful day birding the Park and parts of Lake Britton. The weather was perfect, in the 70's up to the low 80's. Birds were a bit hard to come by. Perhaps the most memorable sighting was a male Pileated Woodpecker. We got great views of the backlit flaming red crest as it spent some time at the base of a large tree and then flew up and hung upside down on some small twigs like a chickadee. A very unusual sight! We also saw 5 or 6 river otters in Lake Britton actively catching fish and eating them.



All in all, a very pleasant day spent with good company.

Turtle Bay---October 9, 2010

Eight birders enjoyed a fine morning of birding. Many migrators were moving through and we saw 44 species despite the fact that very few of the winter ducks were in yet (only Gadwall and

Hooded Merganser). Warblers were out in force, including Black-throated Gray. Also of note was a small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese. This was despite considerable hubbub from the motorcycle event on the Convention Center grounds.

Anderson River Park---October 19, 2010

Seven birders enjoyed perfect weather and excellent birding this morning at Anderson River Park. We were able to identify 60 species. Our best bird was a Red-breasted Nuthatch (a park first for the leader, Ken Bachman), followed by Golden-crowned Kinglet, Great Horned Owl, and Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Update

Hatchet Ridge Wind Farm

Since our last update, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on which Wintu is represented by our Conservation Chair, Claudia Lyons-Yerion, has had two more meetings. During the first meeting Tetra Tech EC, Inc. of Portland, Oregon was selected to design and perform the bird and bat mortality monitoring program. During the subsequent meeting, the TAC and Tetra Tech discussed the monitoring program, fine-tuning some of the elements of the program. Tetra Tech is using a local consulting firm, Klamath Wildlife Resources, of Redding, to perform the on-site field survey portion of the mortality monitoring program.

The latest estimate for the beginning of commercial operations is early November.

Birding Tips from the Fertile Imagination of Pete Dunne

The bright orange-yellow bill stands out at great distances. If it's Clark's, you'll know. If you have to guess, it's the other grebe. (Western).

-Gleaned by Ken Bachman from *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion*

2009-2010 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131
MEMBERSHIP--*Vacant*
PUBLICITY--Frank and Darliss Sanderson 242-8770

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, John Coon, Mike Damoth, Connie Word, Dan Greaney,

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Fund Raiser November 6 at WinRiver Casino Noon to 6 PM

The fundraiser will feature talented artists from the North state. All proceeds go directly to buy food, medical supplies, and other items for the treatment and care of the animals until their release.

Return of the Salmon Festival October 16, 2010

- As we have for many years, Wintu Audubon Society staffed a booth at the festival. Two members were present throughout the day to answer questions and interact with the public. Crowds were large and lively.
- Many donated wildlife and birding magazines were given away.
- Informational brochures, membership information, *Chirp-N-Chatter* Newsletters,

and *Shasta County Bird Lists* were distributed.

- Bird diagrams suitable for coloring were distributed to children.



Sated on Salmon at Battle Creek (after a recent Festival)

Northern California Audubon Council October 23, 2010

Wintu Audubon hosted a very successful meeting at the sumptuous McConnell Foundation headquarters. Six of the nine chapters attended as well as 13 members of Wintu.



We learned of the activities of the attending chapters and picked up pointers on how to improve our chapter. Other agenda items were:

- Report of the activities of the Audubon California Board by our representative, Scott Huber
- Dave Jensen of Mendocino Coast A.S. and Anna Weinstein of Audubon California reported on the Seabirds and the Marine Life Protection Act and the recent contentious process to identify protected areas on the North Coast.

- Jim Clark from the Redwood Region A.S. described the attempted reclassification of the Tolowa Dunes State Park
- Our own Larry Jordan described efforts to conserve habitat for the Burrowing Owl and his efforts in building nest sites.
- Jordan Wellwood, Garry George and Scott Huber described proven fund raising methods and grants available.

Surprising Sightings in Chuck Woodrum's Backyard in Burney



Green-tailed Towhee



Evening Grosbeak



White-throated Sparrow