



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

January/February 2013

January Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, January 8th @ 7:00 pm
The Belted Kingfisher and Its Kin

What is loud, brilliantly blue and splashes into the water to catch fish? It's the Belted Kingfisher, recently chosen by Wintu Audubon to be our logo bird. Linda Aldrich will profile this distinctive and interesting species and put it into context with the Kingfishers of the world. For example, did you know that the iconic Kookaburra of Australia is a kingfisher? Linda is a long-time birder and life member of the National Audubon Society who regularly speaks before outdoors-oriented local organizations.

Field Trips

Second Saturday Beginning Bird Walk -
Turtle Bay, Saturday January 12th @ 8:00 am

A diverse assortment of waders, grebes, loons, mergansers, waterfowl, gulls and resident winter passerines will be viewable up-close with usually a surprise or two (scoters?) on this half day walk. The Turtle Bay portion of the walk should also provide very good looks at Patriot and Liberty, Redding's famous pair of bald eagles, as they continue their nesting activities. After completing the Turtle Bay portion we'll move to the Kutras Lake area where several scopes will be available for attendees to view hundreds of waterfowl (including common and Barrow's goldeneye, canvasback, redhead, lesser scaup), grebes, loons and gulls. We'll assemble at 8:00 am in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk is open to the public and

all skill levels of birders are welcome. It also includes a youth and beginner birdwalk! Note: binoculars and field guides are available for use. Youth are encouraged; must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Meet your leaders Gary Stacey and Dan Greaney in the parking lot behind the Monolith. Call Dan Greaney at 276-9693 for more information.

Local Weekday Bird Walk - Lema Ranch,
Thursday,
January 17th @
8:00 am

The grounds of the McConnell Foundation's headquarters offer a variety of habitats such as ponds, wetlands, oak/pine woodlands and open grassy space. We'll see many overwintering duck and sparrow species as well as raptors such as the American Kestrel.

Local "specialties" include Common Gallinule and Western Bluebird. Say's Phoebe, Lewis' Woodpecker and skulking Virginia Rail and Sora are possibilities. Over 50 species are commonly listed during this morning trip, making it a worthwhile outing. Meet your leader Linda Aldrich in the parking lot reached via Hemingway Street off of Shasta View.

WINTU A.S. CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM at the United Way, 2280 Benton Drive, Redding.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM also at the United Way meeting room. All members are urged to attend to contribute information and ideas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 8th: Linda Aldrich;
The Belted Kingfisher and Its Kin
February 12th: John Sterling;
The Bird Friendly Coffee Movement

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Outing- Saturday, January 19th @ 7:30 am

This refuge supports a large proportion of the wintering population of Snow Geese breeding in Alaska. Tens of thousands of these magnificent birds fill the air and are always a sight to be remembered. Ducks, swans and raptors round out the show. We will assemble at the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium at 7:30 AM to car pool. Bring a lunch and a coat with a wind breaker as it is often windy. Bill Oliver will be your leader.

February Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 12th @ 7:00 pm The Bird Friendly Coffee Movement

John Sterling will be presenting the Smithsonian research supporting the Bird-Friendly Coffee movement. He will discuss why some coffee farms are better than others for birds, why good coffee farms are critical for conservation, and will illustrate his talk with photos of birds from coffee farms in Latin America, the Philippines and Sumatra.

John has been a very active birder since 1971 and a professional wildlife biologist since 1981. He has traveled extensively throughout California learning about local bird distribution and is working on a book on the state's avifauna. He has traveled internationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions including projects as a Smithsonian ornithologist to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Sumatra, Canada and Russia.

John currently has his own company specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting. His website is www.sterlingbirds.com

Field Trips

Second Saturday Beginning Bird Walk – Turtle Bay, Saturday February 9th @ 8:00 am

Great birding right in town! The walkway that parallels Hwy 44 has opened up some fantastic bird habitat. Previously distant ponds filled with waterfowl are now right at hand, as well as riparian forest and the Sacramento River. Among a variety of winter ducks, Hooded Mergansers

are often spotted. Along the shore, Wilson's Snipe are a possibility. Last year, Pacific Loon and White-winged Scoter were spotted from the bridge above the Sacramento. Many songbirds will certainly put in appearances; and our resident bald eagles are back tending their nest. Note: binoculars and field guides are available for use. Youth are encouraged; must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Meet your leaders Gary Stacey and Dan Greaney at the Turtle Bay Monolith.

Local Weekday Bird Walk – Anderson River Park, Thursday, February 21st @ 8:00 am

This gem of riparian habitat has many groomed trails and will be led by Ken Bachman who lives nearby and has a wealth of experience in the Park. We will assemble at the amphitheater in the park for this half-day outing.



Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Llano Seco Unit, and Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) - Saturday, February 23rd @ 7:30 am

The Llano Seco unit is on the east side of the Sacramento River southwest of Chico. It has two viewing platforms overlooking large impoundments and marshy islands. It's a great place to see Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans and a wide variety of ducks and geese, many times we've seen Eurasian Wigeon. The Chico WWTP is nearby and is birder friendly. We should see dabbling ducks, egrets and possibly some shorebirds. Meet the leader, George Horn, at the Redding Convention Center at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. Phone 244-0581. Bring a lunch and a warm jacket for this full day trip.

Trip Reports

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay - November

Thirteen people birded under sunny skies but chilly temperatures. Among the most exciting bird species seen were Western Meadowlark, Hooded Merganser, Wilson's Snipe, Green-winged Teal (although in eclipse plumage), Wood Duck, Hutton's Vireo, Snowy Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye and American Pipit. A total of 62 species were seen.



Local Weekday Bird Walk at Anderson River Park

Eight birders enjoyed good weather, good camaraderie, and great birding at Anderson River Park Thursday morning. Although we dipped on any rarities, we did manage to identify 60 species.



Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay - December

Fourteen people, including two youth, birded under clear skies, cool temperatures and a slight to moderate north wind. A total of 60 species were observed at Turtle Bay and highlights there included two Peregrine Falcons (1 adult and 1 juvenile) along the river and four Greater Scaup upstream of the Highway 44 Bridge. Eight birders continued on to the Kutras Lake area where an additional 10 species were seen including two Bonaparte's Gulls, two adult Bald Eagles and a Clark's Grebe. We did not find the Pacific Loon that had been seen in the area over the past few weeks.



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 CBCs.

Fall River Christmas Bird Count

Fifteen intrepid birders got 125 total species. The historical range for the Fall River Christmas Bird Count - lowest 95 to highest 130 species. This was the highest species count in the last 7 years!

We had light snow flurries from 10 am developing to medium/heavy snow fall continuing throughout the afternoon with limited to very limited visibility and chain requirements on the road home for us Redding folks.

One of the birds we did spot in Fall River was the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). This raptor is a true Arctic species that breeds in taiga and tundra regions of North America and Europe. Luckily for us, their entire population migrates to lower latitudes for the winter. The Rough-legged Hawk is one of the species we see in Fall River every winter.



The Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) was also counted in the Fall River Christmas Bird Count.



The Fall River Christmas Bird Count was the only CBC completed in time for this edition of the Chirp 'N Chatter. The results of the other Christmas Bird Counts will be available on the website and in the next edition of the Chirp 'N Chatter newsletter in March.

Birding Festivals

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

[The 17th Annual Celebration of the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival](#) will be held January 18-21, 2013.

Keynote: Alvaro Jaramillo will give a talk on "Birding Outside the Box: How Our Brain Identifies Birds" on Saturday evening, January 19, 2013. Jaramillo is well known for his "Identify Yourself" column in Bird Watchers Digest and for his many contributions to authoritative birding books around the world. His intriguing keynote address will show how expert birders' brains work to make fast, accurate bird identifications, and how the rest of us can train our own brains to do the same. Every Martin Luther King weekend over 450 birders visit Morro Bay, California, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. Over 200 species are usually sighted during the Festival weekend.

2011-2012 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

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DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, John Coon, Nola Wade, Janet Wall

Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway January 24th - 27th, 2013

Birders and naturalists will be flocking to this festival to take part in one of the premier winter birding festivals in California. With over 60 field trips, workshops and presentations, free family activities, exhibits, vendors, and the amazing Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit at Avenue 9 Gallery, the festival is a great opportunity to spend the day, or all four-days, learning about the natural wonders of the Pacific Flyway and their inhabitants. Our featured speakers at this year's "Gathering of Wings" Banquet & Silent Auction on Saturday night, will be Chico's own, Roger Lederer and Carol Burr, retired Chico State Professors, author and illustrator of "Birds of Bidwell Park". Their keynote presentation will be "The Amazing in the Familiar: Surprising Facts about Common Birds". <http://www.snowgoosefestival.org/>

Galt Winter Bird Festival - January 26th

The City of Galt, in Collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary and High School Districts, are pleased to bring you the [6th Annual Winter Bird Festival](#). Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. The Winter Bird Festival steering committee and volunteers hope that you will find this festival to be an exciting and educational opportunity to celebrate the Winter Birds and habitat we all call home.

16th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Welcome to the [16th Annual Flyway Festival](#), February 10-12, 2011 which promises more guided hikes and outings, tours and workshops on Mare Island than ever before. With over 60 events on the schedule, you'll have to watch closely to make sure you don't miss your favorite! You will find that one of the most unique aspects of our birding festival is the chance to soak up history on Mare Island and view an amazing array of birdlife all at the same time.

Winter Wings Festival

[The 2013 Winter Wings Festival](#) Expands to Four Days - February 14th - 17th

With the stellar lineup of keynote participants we've had at Winter Wings each of the last few years — Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Art Morris, Jeff Gordon, Kenn Kaufman, Darrell Gulin — you could imagine we'd get a bit complacent. But you'd be wrong! The 2013 festival, our 34th, is once again loaded with birding and nature photography talent. With the program expanded to include four full days, we've lined up three keynote participants.

The Chirp 'N Chatter Going Paperless!

Our effort to go paperless is going forward saving money and conserving natural resources. Several dozen members have chosen to receive the electronic version of our newsletter allowing them to receive information on future events at least a week before it is possible to get the paper version to our readers. As you can see from this edition, the advantages of being able to simply click on a link for more information on an event will save you time and give you much more detail than is possible to put in the newsletter itself. To request receiving the Chirp 'N Chatter by email, send an email with the subject "Newsletter" to: Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org

Wintu Audubon Selects the Belted Kingfisher

If you have visited the website recently, you may have noticed that Wintu Audubon has a new logo! After much consideration, the board unanimously chose the Belted Kingfisher as the official mascot of our organization.

We wanted to select a bird that was easily recognized and common throughout the Northstate. As a matter of fact, the Kingfishers include roughly 90 different species whose range is nearly worldwide.

Make sure to make it to our next general meeting on Tuesday January 8th for Linda Aldrich's presentation of "Kingfishers and Their Kin," as she profiles the Belted Kingfisher and discusses its relationship with the other Kingfishers of the world.



WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY
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For the latest Wintu Audubon Society news and birding information visit our website:
www.wintuaudubon.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Two categories of membership are offered.

- Membership in the local Wintu Audubon Society only, which includes the Chirp-N-Chatter, our bi-monthly newsletter of local birding events which will be emailed to you. With a local chapter membership, 100% of your dues support the local chapter. Hard-copy newsletters are available by request.
- Membership in National Audubon which entitles you to the same benefits as the chapter membership and in addition you receive National Audubon's award winning magazine "Audubon."

Please indicate your membership choice: ___ \$20 New Chapter only ___ \$20 Renewal Chapter only
___ \$35 Two-year Chapter only (Checks payable to Wintu Audubon Society)
___ \$20 New National Audubon Society (Checks payable to National Audubon Society)

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name (Please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No. _____ Email Address _____

National Audubon Society uses our local chapter membership list to solicit by mail and phone. If you wish to have your name removed from this list, please check here ____.

Please complete the application and mail to:

Wintu Audubon Society C38,
P.O. Box 994533, Redding, California 96099