

# 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

March/April 2012

## March Activities

### Field Trips

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay March 10th @ 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 Kutrass 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, Thursday, March 15th @ 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

**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 new ideas.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Jim Nelson: *Vernal Pools: Our Ecological Islands*

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Christopher Calonje: *A Photographic Tour of Columbia and Its Birds*

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 our leader, Linda Aldrich at the North Parking Lot off Hemmingway Street. Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View School on Shasta View Drive.

#### Anderson River Park

#### Saturday, March 24th @ 8:00 am

This gem of riparian habitat has many groomed trails where we should see early fall migrants. Wood Ducks and Belted Kingfisher are usually seen near the river as well as many possible surprises. Yellow-billed Magpies are residents of the park and a pair of Bald Eagles nest down river. Ken Bachman who lives near the park and knows all the hot spots will lead. We will also be able to see the area where the new disc golf expansion is proposed. Meet at the amphitheater in the park.

**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.

## General Meeting

Tuesday, March 13 @ 7:00 pm

### *Vernal Pools: Our Ecological Islands*

Vernal pools are unique Mediterranean wetlands, known for their showy wildflowers, that occur throughout the California floristic province. Vernal pools are among our best examples of isolated habitats that have led to diversification of the California flora. Vernal pools have been dramatically reduced by development, abusive uses, and fragmentation of ownership. As habitat for many rare species, including plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act, vernal pools have considerable regulatory protection. Local efforts to protect vernal pools have several notable successes; and yet our efforts come late, with much habitat lost or degraded beyond repair. Come hear about our best local examples, and plan a spring visit to one of our most remarkable natural treasures.

## April Activities

### Field Trips

#### Millville and Parkville Roads and Vicinity

Saturday, April 7th @ 8:00 am

Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Bluebird and Horned Lark are a few of the usual species seen on this trip. Many raptors are possible including Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin and recently seen on Leopard Lane, a Burrowing Owl! We will watch for early migrants, possibly a Western Kingbird. We will meet at the Redding Convention Center. George Horn will lead.

#### Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay

April 14th @ 8:00 am

We will return to Turtle Bay and Kutras 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 ½-day walk with Gary Stacey is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome.

#### Local Weekday Bird Walk to Reading Island

Thursday, April 19th @ 8:00 am

Formed by the shifting channel of the Sacramento River, this Bureau of Land Management property, southeast of Anderson, boasts a varied habitat. Giant valley oaks harbor a variety of migrating passerines and the oxbow lake is home to herons and grebes. We will rendezvous at the Redding Convention Center to carpool. Ken Bachman will lead.

## General Meeting

Tuesday, April 10th @ 7:00 pm

### *A Photographic Tour of Columbia and Its Birds*

Chris was born and raised in Colombia and has been living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, for 7 years working for a small environmental consulting firm. He specializes in wetlands, botanical surveys, environmental education and biological assessments. Chris is owner/operator of Colombia Birdwatch ([www.colombiabirdwatch.com](http://www.colombiabirdwatch.com)), an outfit that specializes in birding trips throughout Colombia. Chris will be taking us on a photographic tour of Colombia and its birds. His presentation includes information on Colombian geography, its cuisine,

### 2010-2011 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT--George Horn 244-0581  
VICE-PRESIDENT--Esther Cox 474-4379  
TREASURER--Connie Word 245-0846  
RECORDING SECTY—Gary Stacey 241-5586  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY--Beatrice Currie 243-3955

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PROGRAMS--Linda Aldrich 223-5341  
EDUCATION--Dan Greaney 276-9673 and  
Don Goodykoontz 474-1655  
CONSERVATION--Claudia Yerion 241-7156  
NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741  
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131  
MEMBERSHIP--*Vacant*  
PUBLICITY—Frank and Darliss Sanderson 242-8770

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ken Bachman, Shelly Carasaro, John Coon, Rose LeRoque, Nola Wade, Janey Wall

culture, and people. Chris will also discuss the increasingly better security situation; the Colombian government, at all levels, has made great strides in bringing peace and prosperity to Colombia in the past decade.

## **Trip Reports**

### **Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Led by John Coon

On a colder than usual Saturday morning, 12 hardy birders gathered for the 2nd Saturday Bird Walk on January 14th. The major object was to find some sunshine to gather warmth. We started by walking out on the trail bridge over the Sacramento River. A highlight here were excellent views of the Black Scoter feeding and floating down the river. Also, several Wilson's Snipes were seen along with the ever popular Hooded Mergansers. Continuing around the river trail, to the Sundial Bridge, 45 species were observed. Continuing along Park Marina Drive provided a total of 50 birds.

### **Local Weekday Bird Walk at Battle Creek State Wildlife Area**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Rained out!

### **Lema Ranch Outing with the Snow Goose Festival**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

This trip was part of the annual Snow Goose Festival from Chico, advertised as "Redding's Hot Spots" which included Lema Ranch, Kutras Lake, and Turtle Bay. Led by Frank Sanderson, over 70 species were seen including Cackling Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Pacific Loon, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Snipe, Thayer's Gull, Hutton's Vireo, and of course our resident Bald Eagles, Patriot and Liberty.

### **Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake**

**February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

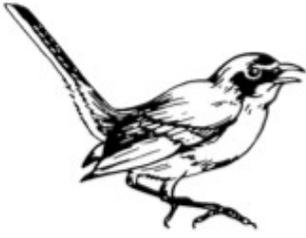
A total of 15 people, including three elementary school children and their parents, showed up for a great day of birding. Dan Greaney did an excellent job at introducing the kids to birding, including how to use binoculars, compile results on a bird list and get on birds seen by others. It was great seeing and hearing the kid's reaction to seeing birds for the first time, especially their "wow" and "cool" cries of joy.

It was a bit chilly at first, but warmed up nicely a little later in the trip. A total of 72 species were seen in the Turtle Bay area which included great views of bald eagles near their new nest. Three birders continued on to the Kutras Lake area and saw an additional seven species not seen in the Turtle Bay area.

### **Local Weekday Bird Walk at Clover Creek Preserve**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Ten (eventually 12) birders gathered in chilly but mostly sunny conditions. From the parking lot, we saw about 10 species – and 34 species total for the trip. Right away, a flock of Western Meadowlarks flew by and settled in sight of everyone. This is a species that you usually have to go out of town to find. We spotted a Marsh Wren that subsequently sang vigorously. A Black-crowned Night Heron flew up and circled in plain view, confirming that that species has taken residence in the Preserve. As we swung around the far end of the big lake and took a side trail into oak/vernal pools habitat, three Lark Sparrows flushed, then posed for all to see in low bushes. We completed the loop and were in the parking lot when someone looked back and spotted a Say's Phoebe, a target bird for the day and a fine climax to a pleasant bird walk.



**WINTU AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 994533  
REDDING, CA 96099-4533

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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For the latest Wintu A.S. news and  
birding information visit our  
website:

**[www.wintuadubon.org](http://www.wintuadubon.org)**

**San Diego Bird Festival**  
**March 1<sup>st</sup> — March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

The 16th annual San Diego Bird Festival takes wing on scenic Mission Bay March 1-4, 2012, with Kenn Kaufman as keynoter and Richard Crossley as a special guest. Festival HQ is just steps from San Diego's famous "Mile of Birds" river estuary. Events include field trips, pelagic trips, workshops, the Birding & Optics Expo, a Big Sit, and special Family Free Day bird and art events on Sunday.

Location  
San Diego, CA, US

Organization Information  
Organization Name: San Diego Audubon Society  
Contact Person: Karen Straus  
Phone Number: 619-804-9056  
Website: <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org>

**Birding Tips from the Fertile  
Imagination of Pete Dunne**

On Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers: People have difficulty distinguishing Downy from Hairy because they give too much weight to plumage and not enough to the powers of human perception. Downy is a tiny compact woodpecker that would have to stretch to see over a coffee mug. Hairy is a full-sized big-billed street brawler of a woodpecker that would have no trouble peering over a beer mug.