

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 2013

March Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, March 13th @ 7:00 pm

Trip to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador

Bruce Deuel and his wife spent 8 days in the Galapagos, visiting 10 islands and seeing all but 2 of the archipelago's endemic birds, plus a great variety of other wildlife. Their 6 days of birding in the Chaco region of Ecuador included visits to 5 different reserves and sanctuaries, while staying at the well-known Tandayapa Birding Lodge. Bruce has been birding for 52 years, visiting all parts of the country and 9 foreign countries in the process.

Field Trips

Second Saturday Beginning Bird Walk - Turtle Bay, Saturday March 9th @ 8:00 am

Come see the ducks, waders, raptors (the eagles are nesting!), and songbirds as winter begins to yield to spring! This walk for beginners includes instruction, and binoculars and field guides are available. After exploring Turtle Bay some birders choose to continue on to the Kutrass 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. 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.

Meiss Lake Outing - Saturday, March 16th @ 7:00 am

Meiss Lake is part of the 13,400 acre Butte Valley Wildlife Area Siskiyou County managed by the Department of Fish and Game. The Meiss Lake habitat includes wetlands, croplands, grasslands and woodlands. Meiss Lake and the adjacent area(s) provide great birding opportunities; Rails, Shorebirds,

Gulls, Terns, Hawks, Owls (Long-eared & Short-eared) and although rare Whimbrel, Mt.

Plover and Bobolinks have been sighted.

In light of the distance (approx. 115mi) and travel time (two hours) we will be departing from the Redding Convention

Center at 7:00am. Be sure to bring a lunch, water, bug spray, etc. The facilities are primitive so plan accordingly.

Local Weekday Bird Walk - Clover Creek Preserve, Thursday, March 21st @ 8:00 am

This wildlife preserve within the city offers a large permanent pond, a creek, parklike open oak woodlands and abundant open space with

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

March 13th: Bruce Deuel; **Trip to the Galapagos & Equador**

April 2nd: Frank Sanderson; **Birds of South Texas**

vernal pools; therefore species not common in the urban area will be seen. Possibilities include Western Meadowlark, Western Bluebird, Say's Phoebe and Lark Sparrow in the uplands; and Marsh Wren, numerous duck species and other waterfowl in the ponds and wetlands. Last year, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs put in an appearance. Once a rarity, the Great-tailed Grackle has taken up residence in the cattail and reed rims around the ponds. In the same area, Black-crowned Night Herons roost during the day. Meet your leader Linda Aldrich in the parking lot off of Shasta View Boulevard and Venus Way at 8:00 am for this half-day trip.

April Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 9th @ 7:00 pm

Birds of South Texas

Frank and Darliss Sanderson flew to San Antonio, Texas, then took a loop through Houston, Port Angeles, down the Gulf coast to Brownsville and swung back to San Antonio. Along the way, they saw species including Tropical Mockingbird, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Clapper Rail, Masked Duck, Chalakalaka, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Black Skimmer. At the famed King Ranch, they added Northern Bearded Tyrannulet and Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. See these species and more in a slide presentation featuring Frank's beautiful photographs. Frank and Darliss are avid birders and long-time Audubon members. Don't miss their birding travelogue!

Field Trips

Dye Creek Preserve Outing, Saturday, April 6th @ 7:00 am

Join us for a hike up Dye Creek Canyon. The Nature Conservancy manages this working cattle ranch, hunt club, and ecological preserve west of Los Molinos in Tehama County. Golden Eagles nest in this beautiful canyon and Peregrine Falcons have been observed. Wild flowers should also be abundant. The trail is rough and steep in places. Bring water, a lunch, and sturdy shoes. Other species of note on previous trips were Black-throated Gray Warbler, Canyon Wren and

Phainopepla! A Greater Roadrunner was recently spotted near the headquarters as well. We will rendezvous at the Redding Convention Center parking lot to carpool. Larry Jordan will lead.

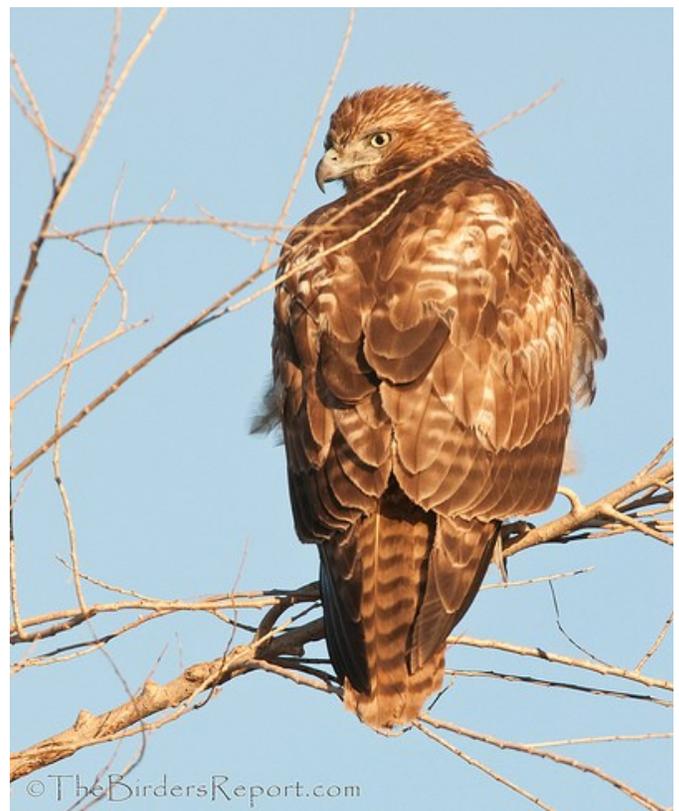
Note: This month there are two Second Saturday Bird Walks!

Second Saturday Beginning Bird Walk – Turtle Bay, Saturday April 13th @ 8:00 am
Spring is on us, and the colorful songbirds from Mexico and Central America are returning! We'll watch and listen for their nesting activities--and also seek late-lingering ducks who have not headed north.

Youth Walk - Binoculars and birdguides available. Meet at the Turtle Bay Monolith at 8 am, April 13th. Call Dan Greaney 276-9693 with any questions.

Second Saturday Bird Walk – Shasta College, Saturday April 13th @ 8:00 am

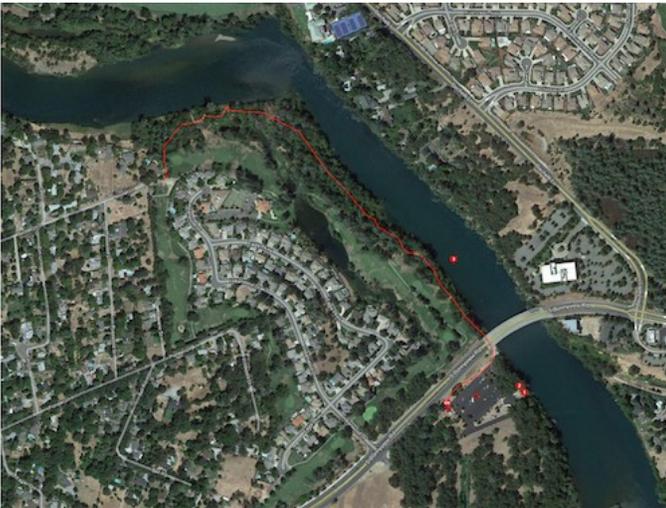
We add an additional bird walk this month at Shasta College Campus for this open-to-the public outing. Here woodlands, ponds, and fields yield a variety of songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Meet at the north parking lot on campus. Connie Word will lead this half-day walk.



Local Weekday Bird Walk – John Reginato River Access, Thursday, April 18th @ 8:00 am

This trail leaves the parking lot of the John Reginato Boat Launch on the west side of the Sacramento River off South Bonnyview Road. Good views of the Sacramento River are afforded on this short trail as it traverses a mixed riparian woodland. We should see a variety of spring migrants such as Nashville, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers and recently arrived summer residents including Bullock's Orioles and Western Tanagers. If time permits we might visit the Cascade Community Park off Girvan Road. Meet at the parking lot on the south side of the Redding Civic Auditorium to carpool. Bill Oliver will be your leader.

Click on Map for Larger Image



Redding Christmas Bird Count 2012

We had a very successful Count this year. Miraculously we hit a clear day in the middle of a long rainy period. Thirty participants in ten parties tallied 20,032 individual birds comprising 115 species--both about our average during the recent past. The most memorable sightings were a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen only a couple of times on previous counts and a *Black-capped Chickadee*---the first record for this species in Shasta County and for the entire Central Valley. WOW!! It had been at a back yard feeder for nearly a week before the Count and fortunately stayed on for count day.

Trip Reports

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay

This January birdwalk led by Gary Stacey and Dan Greaney attracted 24 intrepid birders in spite of cold air temperatures hovering at 26 degrees and light north winds when we started. Our group included 4 children and their parents who were beginning birders. Highlights included a single male common yellowthroat and a bobcat skulking along one of the ponds holding a gadwall in its mouth. We saw a total of 61 species which included 55 species at Turtle Bay and an additional 6 species at Kutras Lake that were not observed at Turtle Bay.



Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch

Fifteen birders gathered in the parking lot under clear skies and frigid temperatures that soon became mild for the season on this January walk. We immediately saw many Western Bluebirds along with usual winter visitors such as Dark-eyed Juncos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. A small flock of Lark Sparrows flitted through, then hopped about on rocks and shrubs in plain view. Other species of note were Common Gallinule and Marsh Wren. Total number of species seen was 48.

Detailed trip reports can be found on our ["Trip Reports" page](#) on the website at WintuAudubon.org

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Outing

Fourteen birders enjoyed a warm, clear, and windless outing to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in January. We ran into a contingent from the Red Bud Audubon Society and heard that members of the Mendocino Coast A.S. were also at the Refuge. We tallied 62 species. Highlights were a countless number of Bald Eagles. No one in the group could remember seeing so many there and a consensus on the number seen was not obtained. A very fearless and cooperative Loggerhead Shrike was at the observation platform. Everyone got closeup views. Also, we spotted two blue phase Snow Geese. One was particularly pretty. Not to be overlooked, of course, was the spectacle of thousands of Snow Geese often taking to the air in response to a passing Bald Eagle.



Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay

On a brisk morning in February, two youths earned extra credit in their science class at Sequoia by joining our Second Saturday bird walk. They proved quick learners with sharp eyes, and nearly achieved a black-out in their bird bingo. Eighteen adult participants joined the kids led by Dan Greany, Connie Word and Bea Currie. Fifty five species were seen. The highlight of the walk was watching the Bald Eagle catch a large fish, carry it off to a branch near the nest and begin eating it. He then carried the remains to his mate in the nest.

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.

Special Announcements

Wintu Audubon's 2013-2014 Slate of Officers

Officers:

- President – Esther Cox
- Vice-President – vacant
- Treasurer – Connie Word
- Recording Secretary – Shelley Cerasaro
- Corresponding Secretary – Bea Currie

Committee Chairs:

- Conservation – Claudia Yerion & Janet Wall
- Newsletter – Bill Oliver
- Membership – George Horn
- Programs – Linda Aldrich
- Publicity – Frank & Darliss Sanderson
- Webmaster – Larry Jordan

Directors at Large:

- Ken Bachman, Ray Bruun, Jeanette Carroll, and Harvey Carroll

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on our board, please contact one of the board members ASAP. Officers will be voted on at the March general meeting so we would like to know of candidates by March 5th.

The Chirp 'N Chatter Is 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's First Annual "Big Day"

Have you ever thought about doing a "Big Day?" Well, you may be in luck! Wintu Audubon Society is in the process of working out the details of a "Wintu Audubon Shasta County Big Day!" Check our website for updates on this event which will most likely be scheduled for June 1st!

Birding Festivals

17th Annual San Diego Bird Festival – February 28th – March 3rd

The San Diego Audubon Society invites you to San Diego for the 17th annual San Diego Bird Festival, being held at the Marina Village Conference Center. Festival headquarters, overlooking a picturesque marina, is just steps away from San Diego's species-rich San Diego River estuary. From sea to desert to mountaintop, San Diego County has a lot of birding to offer, with more than 500 species. Our birding area encompasses diverse habitats ranging from desert to mountains, shore to coastal wetlands, urban and suburban. We'll even take you birding by bicycle and kayak. Get more information at [Sand Diego Audubon's website](#).

GODWIT DAYS SPRING MIGRATION BIRD FESTIVAL APRIL 18 - 24, 2013

Come celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and wildlife through our selection of field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local guides. Tour the expansive mudflats, the wild river valleys and the rocky ocean coast of this sector of the Klamath bioregion in northwest California. <https://www.godwitdays.org/>

Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival – April 26 - 28th

Get all the information on this annual festival at their Point Reyes Birding Festival website. [PointReyesBirdingFestival.org](#)

18th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature & Earth Day Festival – April 21st

Spring bird migration creates an exciting time for birders visiting the Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival. The last five festivals have averaged 233 bird species! The region centered on the Kern River Valley hosts 138 butterfly species, 2,000+ species of plants, and the highest mammal diversity in the United States!

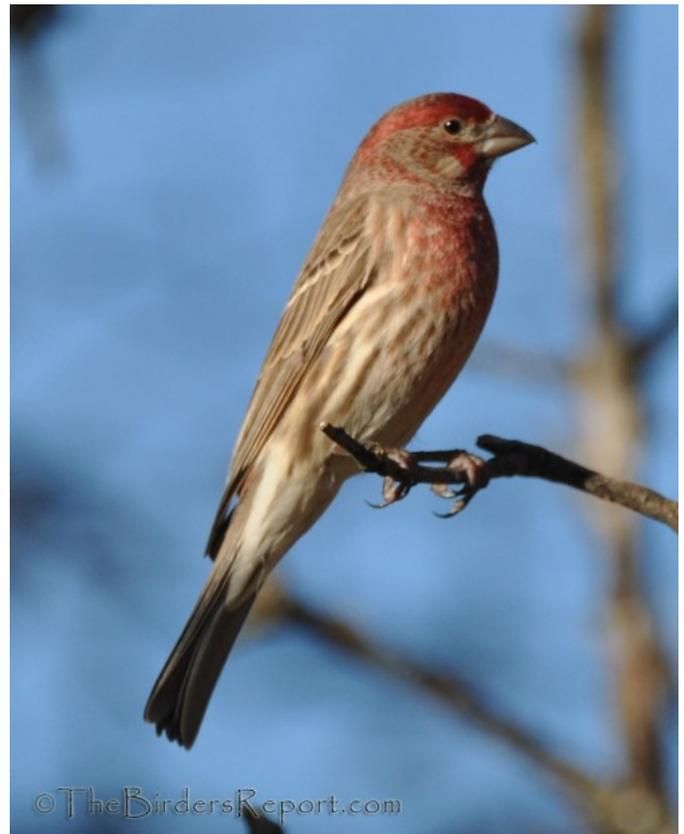
[KernAudubon.org](#)

Birding Tips from the Fertile Imagination of Pete Dunne - Purple Finch vs House Finch

The Purple Finch (below) is overall bigger-headed, heavier-billed, and more portly than the more generically contoured House Finch.



Adult males appear extensively but diffusely wine-stained on the head, breast, flanks, and even bleeding through the brown back and wings. On the House Finch (below), brighter red to orange tones are limited to the head, face, throat and breast. House Finch looks like it had wine thrown in its face, Purple Finch was dipped in it.





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