November Activities

Field Trips

Second Saturday Bird Walk – Turtle Bay, Saturday November 10th @ 8:00 am
These will be adjoining walks for youth and adults! 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. Note: binoculars and field guides are available for use. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Meet your leaders Linda Aldrich and Dan Greaney in the parking lot behind the Monolith.

Local Weekday Bird Walk – Anderson River Park, Thursday, November 15th @ 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.

Reading Island Outing -Saturday, November 17th @ 7:30 am
Reading Island, this Bureau of Land Management property, southeast of Anderson, and boasts a varied habitat. Giant valley oaks harbor a wide variety of oak woodland birds, including resident California Thrashers, and wintering House Wren. The oxbow lake and Sacramento River are home to herons, grebes and rails. Additionally, the Reading Island area is one of the most consistent places in the county for Phainopepla, For this half-day outing participants should wear comfortable shoes/boots bring water and lunch. Facilities are limited to a pit toilet, No drinking water is available. The walking distance is minimal on improved trails, river cobble and blacktop. We will be departing from the Redding Convention Center at 7:30am. Darliss and Frank Sanderson will lead.

General Meeting
Tuesday, November 13th @ 7:00 pm
Birding Peru
Judee and Bill Adams were able to spend 30 days birding in Peru this summer. Most of the trip they were with Manu Expeditions though they spent 3 days on their own visiting Puno (Lake Titicaca). They were blessed to see over 600 of the 1,800 + birds of Peru as well as many animals, butterflies, and historic sites including Machu Picchu. They were able get great photos of many of the birds they saw. Come and enjoy the Birds of Peru with them.
December Activities

General Meeting
Tuesday, December 11th @ 7:00 pm
Patriot and Liberty, Our Local Bald Eagles
Terri will share her own personal history of watching this pair of eagles, from the time her family and she first spotted them at Turtle Bay way back in 2005, thru the "Cone Incident"/Caltrans Bridge Building Project 2007, to the writing of the book, The Unstoppable Eagles, 2011 to the current nesting season. She’ll give an overview of some of the more interesting photos/stories/events that have occurred over the years like the year a young (4 - 4 1/2 year old) female hung out with Patriot for a few weeks before Liberty returned. Or last season, when Liberty brought an American Coot to the nest and somehow it took off and flew out of the nest before they could eat it! Join us for a lively and informative talk.

Christmas Bird Counts
It’s that time of year again when we participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the National Audubon Society. All the birds within a fixed 15-mile diameter circle are counted. The 113th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count will take place Dec 14, 2012 to January 5, 2013. The longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on population trends. Tens of thousands of participants know that it is also a lot of fun.

Fall River CBC, December 15th @ 7 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 baby@c-zone.net if you plan to participate and if you want breakfast at the hotel.

Anderson CBC, December 20th @ 7:00 am
This will be our fifth 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 kingbird@snowcrest.net for further information.

Red Bluff CBC, December 22 @ 7:30 am
This long-running count was resumed a few years ago under the able leadership of Karen Scheurermann. Please call 347-1687 or email karens2020@gmail.com if you are coming and if you want to come early for owling. Meet in the Holiday parking lot for assignments. Compilation dinner at 5. Location TBA.

Redding CBC, December 27th @ 7:00 am
The 36th Annual Redding Christmas Bird Count, Thursday, December 27, 2012. We will assemble under the canopy at the main entrance to the Redding Civic Auditorium, aka the Redding Convention Center, at 7:00 am for instructions and assignments. We will re-assemble for the compilation and no host dinner at dusk at the Tortuga Bay Grill, 1815 Park Marina Drive. Good news! Beginning this year the $5 participation fee has been discontinued. To offset this funding loss the annual summary of the Count will not be published in North American Birds. Instead it will be available online. We wish to emphasize again that all skill levels are welcome. Participants who feel that their identification skills are inadequate can still make a valuable contribution as a recorder, a driver, and an extra pair of eyes. Please contact Bill Oliver, Ph. 530-941-7741 or Email: wwoiver9@gmail.com if you plan to participate and/or wish more information.
Second Saturday Bird Walk at Shasta College
Ten birders observed 35 species on a sunny, warm day at Shasta College. Birds seen were: American Crow, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler, Oak Titmouse, Black Phoebe, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Mourning Dove, California Towhee, Anna’s Hummingbird, Lesser Goldfinch, American Robin, Western Scrub-Jay, Pea Fowl, Canada Goose, Savannah Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Killdeer, Turkey Vulture, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Rock Pigeon, Wood Duck, Great Egret, Western Sandpiper, Mallard, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Tanager, California Quail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Western Bluebird, House Finch, Belted Kingfisher, American Kestrel, and Bewick’s Wren.

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay
Because our McConnell-funded binoculars were on back-order, we had not broadly advertised the September walk. There were no attendees. A solitary stroll, however, found Turtle Bay to be generous. Along 44, the pond with the rock-pile island was particular rich. Its reed-and-weed decked shallows presented a raccoon that stirred a family of mallards out to open water; the raccoon did not find the family of pied-billed grebes—mom and four downy, stripe-headed chicks, on and near their low-rent nest even at this late date; a muskrat chased a couple of the mallards from their perch on an offshore root, swimming after them for several feet.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch
Six people met to bird Lema Ranch in mild (for the season) weather. At first, it didn’t seem to be very "birdie", but our list gradually and steadily grew to 43, very respectable for the dry conditions and prior to the in-migration of the winter ducks. Standout sightings were a flock of Lewis’s Woodpeckers flying overhead; a Red-breasted Sapsucker; several Common Yellowthroats flitting among the cattails and willow branches near the lake; and first-of-season White-crowned Sparrows. Click on any photo to see a full sized image.

Fall River Outing
Seven birders enjoyed wonderful weather and good birding yesterday the first day of Fall. We birded the Pitt River viewpoint, Fall River Lake, Glenn, Island Rd area, Horr Rd and the Rat Farm area totaling 87 species, including the White-faced Ibis.
Turtle Bay Youth Walk at Turtle Bay
Our McConnell-funded binoculars and guides arrived, and Dan Greaney, our Education Chair, showed students in Mrs. Winchell’s class at Manzanita School how to use them. The next day, four students and eight adults enjoyed a beautiful fall morning at Turtle Bay. While remaining foliage obscured leaf-and-twig gleaners, and the ducks were still at mallards, distant gadwalls, and a lone wigeon, the birds did not fail. Rockpile Pond was again a highlight. A Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret were all there at once, and the Snowy put on a show of kicking up the muck, apparently to stir up prey. A kingfisher rattled around the pond several times, and overhead a turkey vulture warmed its wings in a display that lasted longer than we did.

We also studied a fox sparrow that had apparently been killed by a car on Highway 44. In its death, the bird provided a close-up view of a seed-cracking bill and perching feet, not to mention some feeling.

Local Weekday Bird Walk Kapusta
On Thursday Oct. 18th 14 birders participated in the “Weekday Bird Walk” at Kapusta. Even though it was unseasonably warm and the pond levels quite low 47 species were observed and identified.

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.

Northern California Regional Audubon Chapter Council Meeting Held In Upper Lake

Wintu’s Gary Stacey, Larry Jordan and Claudia Yerion attended the Chapter Council Meeting, and what can we say? Redbud Audubon Society’s President, Marilyn Waits, obviously knows how to organize an incredible event! When you get together with 28 bird and conservation enthusiasts you can’t help but have a great time.

Satuday morning began with a bird walk at the Rodman Slough Nature Preserve led by Brad Barnwell, a board member of Lake County Land Trust and an excellent birder. We observed several species in a wonderful habitat; the most exciting observation being a Northern Saw-whet Owl perched in an oak tree with prey in its talons!
These are all wonderful and engaging festivities but the most important part of these Audubon California Chapter Council meetings are the chapter reports. This is when we get to hear about successful conservation, education and fund raising programs and strategies used by other chapters which can inspire us with ideas for our own chapter’s progress.

We also received special treats at this meeting with Mike Sutton, California Audubon Vice President and Executive Director, giving us personal insight into his conservation vision and strategies for the future of California and the entire Pacific Flyway. He showed us an inspiring National Audubon video featuring David Yarnold, President and CEO, of the National Audubon Society. You can see the “Birds Matter” video on YouTube and it is also posted on the Wintu Audubon home page.

We also heard form Meghan Hertel, Working Lands Policy Manager for Audubon California, on restoring the San Joaquin River with the “I’m for the River” campaign. Garry George, Renewable Energy Project Director also gave us an update on the solar and wind projects in the state.

### Return of the Salmon Festival

The Wintu Audubon Society sponsored a booth at the festival with bird books for sale, free magazines, free Audubon pamphlets, brochures and membership information.

An activity for children involving constructing an instrument to produce a California Quail call was led by our education chair, Dan Greaney, assisted by other Wintu members. It was very popular.

The booth was manned by nine Wintu Audubon members throughout the day, answering questions, handling sales and helping with all related activity. A very successful event!

### 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

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**Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival**

**November 2nd - 4th, 2012**

Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. As they greeted California’s earliest explorers, these magnificent birds darkened the skies over winter marshes. In awe-inspiring numbers, and with a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane continues to attract and inspire visitors. Each year thousands of visitors make their way to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands to experience first hand one of nature’s spectacles. The abundance of crane habitat continues to nourish our agricultural roots, with water, soil, and climate that sustains the birds, enriches our lives, and benefits our local economy.

All the information on the 16th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival can be found at [http://www.cranefestival.com/index.html](http://www.cranefestival.com/index.html)

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

**OFFICERS**

- PRESIDENT—Gary Stacey 241-5586
- VICE-PRESIDENT—Esther Cox 474-4379
- TREASURER—Connie Word 245-0846
- RECORDING SECTY—Shelly Cerasaro 941-8941
- CORRESPONDING SECTY--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—George Horn 244-0581
- PUBLICITY—Frank and Darliss Sanderson 242-8770

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Ken Bachman, John Coon, Nola Wade, Janet Wall
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Two categories of membership are offered.

• Membership in the local Wintu Audubon Society only, which includes the local Chirp-N-Chatter newsletter. With a local chapter membership, 100% of your dues support the local chapter.

• 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 ___ $35 for renewal (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

For the latest Wintu Audubon Society news and birding information visit our website:

www.wintuaudubon.org