

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

May/June 2012

May Activities

General Meeting

Tuesday, May 8th @ 7:00 pm

Scenes from an Australian Tour

Carl and Marti Weidert crisscrossed Australia in a 6-week trip that started in the Melbourne area. They saw the regrowth from the big Victoria fires and Hanging Rock, famous as the setting for the movie "Picnic at Hanging Rock". Also in the same Territory they saw a big mob of kangaroos near the ranch house that appeared in "Man from Snowy Mountain". Driving along the coast to Adelaide they saw the most important nesting area in Australia which has sand dunes, marshes and lakes; unfortunately, it wasn't during nesting season. They traveled from Adelaide to Darwin, also Western Australia, including several national parks. They flew to Cairns and took a train and cable car through the rain forest, then went up to the Daintree area for tropical rain forest. The trip included a cross section of many habitat types, and the sighting of 225 species of birds.

2012 Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is having their 4th biennial tour of private gardens from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 5th and Wintu Audubon will be there! We will have a table at one of the gardens with information on native plants that will attract wildlife to home gardens as well as bird-friendly gardening practices and other materials. If you would like to assist at the table

for either the morning or the afternoon, please contact Linda Aldrich at 223-5341. If you're taking the tour, come on by and see us!

Field Trips

Bear Creek Watershed Outing

Saturday, May 5th @ 8:00 am

A rare chance to bird on private property! Wintu Audubon vice-president Esther Cox also belongs to this watershed organization and has interested property owners wanting to learn the bird species that live on their land. We will visit several of these private acreages. Meet at the Redding Convention Center at 7:30 am to carpool or join Esther at the Share-A-Ride parking at the intersection of Hwy. 44 and Black Butte Road at 8:00 am. This will be a full day trip, so bring a lunch and water and wear sturdy shoes for hiking.

Please note there are two bird walks on Saturday May 12th @ 8:00 am



Second Saturday Bird Walk at Shasta College, Saturday, May 12th @ 8:00 am

The Shasta College campus includes a variety of habitats, so attracts a number of species of birds Possibilities include migrating warblers such as Common Yellowthroat, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Lewis' Woodpecker, Western Bluebird and Wild Turkey. This outing is open to birders of all skill levels and beginners are encouraged to attend. We will meet at the north parking lot. Connie Word and Linda Aldrich will lead.

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay Saturday, May 12th @ 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. This half day walk with Dan Greaney is open to the public and designed for youth, grades 4-8 and up, and beginners of all ages. We have binoculars to share. Meet at the concrete monolith at Turtle Bay to learn the birds of our home town. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch Thursday, May 17th @ 8:00 am

The ponds, open fields and oak woodlands of the McConnell Foundation Headquarters attract a wide variety of bird species. Local "specialties" include Common Gallinules, Great-tailed Grackles, Lark Sparrows and Western Bluebirds. Sora, Virginia Rail and American Bittern are possible. Some ducks will probably still be present such as Ruddy and Northern Shoveler. There may be warblers. Many birds will be nesting, so we'll probably see chicks and/or nests. Meet leader Linda Aldrich at the parking lot off of Hemingway Street, across from Mountain View School on Shasta View Drive.



Annual June Picnic Tuesday, June 12th @ 6:00 pm

We will meet at the Whiskeytown Historic District for our annual picnic (not a potluck, bring your own food). After eating, we will bird the area where species seen in the past include American Dippers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Yellow-breasted Chat, Warbling Vireo and nesting Bullock's Orioles. Note: remember to display your park pass, or buy a day pass if you don't have a long-term pass.

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

May 8th, Carl and Marti Weidert: ***Scenes from an Australian Tour***



Annual August Camp Out

**Camp-out at Lassen Volcanic National Park
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 17-19**

We have enjoyed the birding, camping and camaraderie at the Lost Creek Group Campground the last three years so we are again planning a repeat. Group Camp Site 3 has been reserved for the nights of Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18. Altacal Audubon Society has also scheduled a camp-out that same weekend and has reserved the adjacent Site 4. We will again invite the Redwood Region Audubon Society and Redbud Audubon to join us. Wintu Audubon Society folks can either camp at Lost Creek Group Site 3 or drive up for either or both Saturday and Sunday activities. Campers can arrive at the group camp site anytime after 1300 hrs on Friday and must check out no later than noon on Sunday but campers will still have the opportunity to utilize the park the remainder of Sunday afternoon. Saturday day trippers should meet at the Redding Convention Center parking lot at 0730 Saturday morning to car pool. We will bird Manzanita Lake and vicinity on Saturday morning. The rest of the itinerary is open and will depend on the interests of the participants. Day trippers for Sunday will meet at the group campground at 0830 hrs. The Lost Creek Group Campground has primitive facilities: pit toilets and no electricity, but potable water is available. Contact Gary Stacey (home 530-241-5586, cell 530-921-3390 or E-mail at gbstacey@snowcrest.net) if you have any questions.



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—Shelley Cerasaro 941-8941
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY--Bea 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, Rose LeRoque, Nola Wade,
Janey Wall

Trip Reports

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay

March 10th, 2012, Led by Connie Word

The second Saturday bird walk at Turtle Bay on March 10th brought out 13 birders plus 7 or 8 children with accompanying adults. It was a warm sunny morning and a total of 70 species were observed at Turtle Bay or Kutras Lake including the following: Yellow-billed Magpie, Hermit Thrush, Wilson's Snipe, Bewick's Wren, Pacific Loon, Horned Grebe, Hutton's Vireo, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, Myrtle variety.



Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch
Thursday, March 15th, 2012 was rained out.

Anderson River Park Bird Walk
Saturday March 24th, 2012 was rained out.

Millville Plains, Parkville Cemetery and Battle Creek Preserve Outing
Saturday April 7th, 2012, Led by George Horn
Eleven people spent an enjoyable Saturday birding Millville Plains, Parkville Cemetery and part of Battle Creek. The weather was cool in the morning but pleasant most of the day. A total of 56 species were seen.

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake
April 14th, 2012, Led by Gary Stacey
After what seemed like weeks of rain, we finally had our first full day of sunshine and nearly 30 birders showed up to enjoy it and the diversity of resident and migrating birds in the area. Eight adults and nine children spent the morning with Dan Greaney learning the beginning basics of birding. This relatively large turnout of youth (due in part to returning kids inviting their friends from the local Girl Scout troop) and their parents was very encouraging for the future of our Chapter and birding in general. The kids particularly enjoyed seeing the Bald Eaglets being fed by one of the adult eagles and a Canada Goose nest with the female brooding eggs. Gary Stacey lead the remainder of the group during this really great morning of birding which produced 62 species along the usual route through Turtle Bay Park and an additional 14 species in the Kutras Lake area. Yellow-rumped Warblers were everywhere and several members of the group remarked they had never before seen so many of them at one time. We got great looks at one of the two bald eaglets standing up in the nest and later being fed a delicious coot by one of the adults. Additional noteworthy sightings at Turtle Bay Park included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, both male and female Bullock's Oriole, adult Cooper's Hawk eating a meal, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. A male Hooded Oriole put in a very brief appearance at Kutras Lake as we were leaving.

Local Weekday Bird Walk at Reading Island
April 19th, 2012, Led by Ken Bachman
Seven birders enjoyed a beautiful morning at Reading Island. We managed to find 53 species, even while dipping on a few common birds. The best birds were: California Thrasher (singing), Phainopepla, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Lewis's Woodpecker, Wilson's Warbler and Wild Turkey.



Heron Festival, Clear Lake, California
May 5th, 2012

Pontoon boat tickets are now available to purchase for the eagerly anticipated annual Heron Festival on May 5, 2012, at Redbud Park in the city of Clearlake. You know from having attended the festival in past years what a wonderful celebration of nature this event offers. There are important changes to the festival this year, and we have fewer boat tour tickets than in the past. The Heron Festival is returning to the south end of Clear Lake to Redbud Park in the city of Clearlake. As in the festival's first nine years, the pontoon boat tours will leave from Redbud Park to visit the heron rookery in Anderson Marsh. All the other festival activities that have made this event so special will also be at Redbud Park. For this transition year, the Heron Festival will be one day only. Because the

festival is only one day, we encourage you to make your boat reservations as soon as possible, as the available tickets for some of the most popular tour times may sell out quickly. The Keynote Speaker is internationally-honored nature photographer Philip L. Greene from Point Reyes. Greene has studied and photographed herons and egrets for over two decades. His spectacular photos and delightful lecture focus on the nesting cycle of herons and egrets, with special emphasis on mating behaviors, nest building, and fledging. The very popular live owls and raptors show will be offered at 1:00 pm and repeated at 2:00 pm. This special talk and demonstration by Native Bird Connections is one of the activities designed especially for families with children. Dr. Harry Lyons again offers his "Myths and Music of Clear Lake" combining an entertaining mix of music, science, and humor to tell the story of Clear Lake. Redbud Audubon will show a video and slide presentation on the amazing courtship "dancing" behaviors of the beloved grebes that frequent Clear Lake by the thousands every year during the breeding season. For photos and details on all festival events and to purchase tickets for the pontoon boat tours, please visit www.HeronFestival.org or call 707- 263-8030. We hope you will participate again in both of these very special events! Heron Festival Sponsor Redbud Audubon Society

Spring Wings Festival, Fallon, Nevada May 18th to 20th, 2012

The Spring Wings Festival is held in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife-recognized celebration of conservation and bird migration. The sheer magnitude of the annual bird migration along the Pacific Flyway is staggering. Millions of birds travel all or part of the way between feeding grounds as far south as Patagonia and breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic tundra. Millions stop in the Lahontan Valley each spring to rest and feed before continuing north.

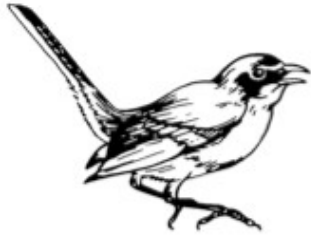
Spring Wings attendees can choose from various birding-focused guided tours throughout the Lahontan Valley beginning Friday afternoon and continuing through

Sunday morning. Parents and children can learn about everything from birds of prey to the ancient history of the Great Basin in interactive presentations featuring live birds and well-known experts. The Festival weekend kicks off on Friday night with a special family fun social gathering from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m. Tours begin on Saturday May 19 from 7 a.m.- 11 a.m. followed by more tours in the afternoon from 2 p.m.- 5 p.m., and there will also be a free family festival at the fairgrounds from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. On Sunday morning tours will run from 7 a.m.- 11 a.m. The price of the tours ranges from \$5- \$25. For more information about the Spring Wings Festival and to register for tours go to www.SpringWings.org. For more information on activities around Fallon, call the Fallon Tourism office at 775-423-4556 or 1-866.232.5566.

11th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Lee Vining, California June 15th - 17th, 2012

Over 325 species of birds have been observed within the Mono Basin. Islands within Mono Lake support 70-80% of California's nesting population of California Gulls, the second-largest rookery in the world after Great Salt Lake. Caspian Terns and Snowy Plovers visit the basin, the latter maintaining one of its largest California breeding areas. In summer, 80,000 Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes can descend upon Mono Lake, where they complete their molt before continuing south to tropical wintering grounds. An average of 7,000 Least and Western Sandpipers move through the basin during spring and fall, along with up to 10,000 American Avocets. After the fall passage of shorebirds, Eared Grebes arrive, with over 1.7 million birds recorded on the lake in recent years. Willow Flycatchers, extremely rare in the Sierra Nevada and eastern California, have been discovered breeding in the streams on the west side of the basin. The basin lies between two major populations of Greater Sage Grouse, and small numbers have been observed here in the Mono Basin.

For more information go to their website: www.BirdChautauqua.org



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

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