CHIRP-N-CHATTE
The Newsletter of the Wintu Audubon Society
Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Shasta and eastern portions of Trinity County, California

September/October 2012

September Activities

Field Trips
Please note there are two bird walks on Saturday September 8th @ 8:00 am

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

We will search for early fall migrants among the summer residents on the campus of Shasta College. The oak woodlands, wastewater treatment pond, riparian, and fields support a wide variety of species. This outing is open to birders of all skill levels and beginners are encouraged to attend. Meet in Shasta College’s north parking lot for this 1/2 day trip lead by Connie Word.

Alternate Second Saturday Bird Walk – Turtle Bay, Saturday September 8th @ 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. 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 – Lema Ranch, Thursday, September 20th @ 8:00 am

Lema Ranch, an oasis of open space in Redding, has excellent year-around birding. The ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell Foundation Headquarters provide an abundance of birds.

We will look for Common Moorhens, rails, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Lark Sparrows, and maybe the resident Merlin. This will be a 2-3 hour walk. We will meet at the North Parking Lot off Hemmingway Street.

Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View School on Shasta View Drive. Linda Aldrich will be your leader. Fine public restrooms and paved trails make this a very pleasant and rewarding bird walk.

Meiss Lake Outing -Saturday, September 22 @ 7:00 am

Meiss Lake is part of the 13,400 acre Butte Valley Wildlife Area in Siskiyou County, managed by the a Department of Fish and Game. The Meiss Lake habitat includes wetlands, croplands, grasslands and woodlands. The 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, Mountain 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.

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
September 11th: Bob Yutzy; Rare Birds of Shasta County
October 9th: Kathy Biggs; The Dazzling Dragonflies of the Redding Area
water, bug spray, etc. The facilities are primitive so plan accordingly.

**General Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 11th @ 7:00 pm**

**Rare Birds of Shasta County**

Join Wintu friends and members for this program about the seldom seen and lesser known birds of our County. Bob Yutzy will give hints on where to look for these birds and how to ID them once you find them. Input from the group on locales and ID marks is always encouraged. Close up photos covering the unique ID marks for each species will be on our big screen for your enjoyment. Hope to see you there!

Bob has spent 25 years as Fall River Mills CBC Compiler and 30 years Breeding Bird Counter in the North State. He is Shasta County Bird Checklist Editor, North American Birds Subregional Editor for Shasta County, and shares top county bird list totals with Carol Yutzy.

**October Activities**

**General Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 9th @ 7:00 pm**

**The Dazzling Dragonflies of the Redding Area**

Flame Skimmer - Blue Dasher - Western Pondhawk - Emerald Spreadwing - Eight-spotted Skimmer - Bison Snaketail: with colors at least as gorgeous as their names are interesting, these dazzling dragonflies, and others, will be introduced in a lively presentation by Kathy Biggs, the author of California's first dragonfly guide and also California's first eGuide. We’ll learn about their interesting life cycles and unique mating habits and we’ll be shown identification marks but not any vocalizations because dragonflies can neither make sounds nor hear! Many of the slides we’ll be shown were taken by Wintu’s own member Ray Bruun, California’s premier Dragonfly photographer.

California Dragonflies [www.sonic.net/dragonfly](http://www.sonic.net/dragonfly)
Southwest Dragonflies [www.southwestdragonflies.net/](http://www.southwestdragonflies.net/)
Bigsnest Wildlife Pond [www.bigsnestpond.net/](http://www.bigsnestpond.net/)

**Field Trips**

**Please note there are two bird walks on Saturday, October 13th @ 8:00 am**

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

This open-to-the-general-public outing will be at Shasta College. Meet in the north parking lot for this half day trip. The oak woodlands, wastewater treatment pond and fields support a wide variety of species. Connie Word will lead.

**Alternate Second Saturday Bird Walk – Turtle Bay, Saturday October 13th @ 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. 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 – Kapusta, Thursday, October 18th @ 8:00 am**

Kapusta is a city of Redding property located adjacent to the Sacramento River in south Redding. The habitat includes ponds, wetlands, grasslands, riparian vegetation and woodlands. We will be departing from the Redding Convention Center at 8:00am. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes bring water, bug spray, etc. No facilities are available at the sight, please plan accordingly. Frank and Darliss Sanderson will be your co-leaders.

**Clear Creek Outing**

**Saturday, October 27th @7:30 am**

We will be departing from the Gold Dredge parking lot (Clear Creek Rd.) at 7:30am, wear sturdy shoes bring a lunch, water, bug spray, etc. The round trip is approx. 4.5 mi on improved trails including moderate grades. The only facilities (pit toilets) located within the parking area, please plan accordingly. Frank and Darliss Sanderson will be your co-leaders.
Return of the Salmon Festival October 20th at the Coleman Fish Hatchery

View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths and much more. Wintu Audubon will staff a booth. Contact Bea Currie 243-3955 for info.

Chirp 'N Chatter Going Paperless!

In an effort to conserve money and natural resources, like many other environmentally conscious organizations, Wintu Audubon's Chirp 'N Chatter is going paperless! We invite you to fill out the enclosed mailer and send it back to us so that we can put you on our electronic mailing list. To make it even easier to go paperless, simply email your information to: Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org. Obviously, your email address, like all of your personal information, will never be shared with anyone for any reason.

What are the advantages to receiving our electronic newsletter? You get an interactive document that has links to additional website information that you can visit with the click of your mouse. Your electronic newsletter also has full color photographs which will usually be linked to full sized images when clicked. Plus you can feel all warm and fuzzy inside knowing you are conserving our forests and saving your local Audubon Society money that can be spent on other projects like our Youth Outreach program, designed to get people involved in birding at a young age.

We have archived several back issues of our newsletter for your perusal here: http://wintuaudubon.org/newsletter.htm

Monterey Bay Birding Festival September 13 – 16, 2012

Designed for both seasoned and beginning birders, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn and appreciate world class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Marine Estuary, and Pinnacles National Monument. Specially designed field trips will take participants to Big Sur and the Ventana Wildlife Society to witness the return of the California Condors. Join a pelagic trip by Shearwater Journeys to one of the world’s most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels and more. Jump into a kayak and get closer to nature or take a scenic ride at Elkhorn Slough Safari. All field trips are lead by top quality, friendly leaders.

'The Big Year' birder Greg Miller is the keynote speaker Sept. 15 at the Watsonville Civic Plaza. For registration information go to http://montereybaybirding.org/

18th Annual Kern River Valley AUTUMN NATURE & VULTURE FESTIVAL Saturday, September 29, 2012

This is an annual celebration of the fall migration of Turkey Vultures and the beginning of the fall season in the South Fork Kern River forest.

Vultures begin to gather in large flocks in August and start heading south in earnest by September, with their numbers reaching a crescendo at the end of September.

From 1994-2006 from the beginning of September through the third week in October, an average of 25,000 Turkey Vultures have been counted flying over a single point in the South Fork Valley.

You can get more information on this event at http://kern.audubon.org/tvfest.htm
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