



Falcon Flyer

Promoting the preservation of birds, wildlife, and their natural habitats.

Peregrine Audubon Society provides informative and educational public programs and participates actively as an advocate for environmental conservation.

Important Information

Meetings - Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Ukiah City Council Chambers - Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave., Ukiah, unless otherwise noted. From South State Street turn west on Seminary and go to the end into the parking lot. Refreshments available after the meetings. The public is always welcome.

Board meetings - Board meetings are open to the membership. You are always welcome and encouraged to participate.

Field Trips - Everyone is welcome! Details located in the calendar.

Field Trip Guidelines: These guidelines apply to all Peregrine Field Trips. Please take a moment to read them if you are new or use them to refresh your memory if you have birded with us before.

******The times listed are the departure times, not the assembly times. Please arrive early!****** Many of these trips are out of the area and require an hour or more of driving, so promptness is necessary. Due to insurance requirements, Peregrine Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private arrangements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. Most trips are all day affairs but at times various people need to get back sooner. By arriving 10 minutes early, such necessary travel arrangements can be made.

To Bring: You will probably want to take a pack with lunch, water, hat and appropriate clothing - coats, rain gear, etc. - binoculars*, camera perhaps, notepad and field guides.

** Binoculars are important but loaner pairs may be available for newcomers. If you have one to loan, bring it along.*

Calendar

Meeting, Tuesday, September 19- Come spend an evening visiting **The wild Pacific-side of Costa Rica** with our speaker **Bob Keiffer**. Bob and Beth visited this diverse country last year, and Bob was able to get lots of great images from their travels. Visit special places like the Basalisks at Corcovado National Park and the turquoise waters of the Rio Celeste. See Tent-making Bats at Manuel Antonio Park, sloths at Carara National Park, hummingbirds at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, and crocodiles on the Tarcoles River. Discover spectacular sunset beaches to wild jungles. Find out that it does not take a huge, expensive camera and lens to capture memorable wildlife photos. Bob's great photography and his engaging talks always provide for an entertaining evening. See you there!

Field Trip, Saturday, September 30- We will have the opportunity to bird some of the CalTrans mitigation property in the middle of **Little Lake Valley** with **Marisella de Santa Anna**. As this is a first for us, we are not certain what we will see. There should be a number of raptors in the grasslands, and hopefully some surprise migrants mixed in with the resident species. We may also get to see the Elk out there. The terrain is flat, but long pants and light hiking boots are advisable. We will car pool from the CVS parking lot at 830, or meet at the Willits library parking lot at 9am. Bring a lunch and something to drink if you want to picnic.

Field Trip, Saturday, October 7- Beginner's Bird Walk at Riverside Park. The park is located along the Russian River at the east end of Gobbi Street. This is the only publicly accessible stretch of the main-stem Russian River in all of Mendocino County. The City of Ukiah has been developing trails in the park, as well as managing the vegetation to widen the riparian corridor and introduce



more native plant species. It is an excellent birding location. We encourage participants of all ages and birding experience levels to come out for this leisurely walk. We will meet at 8:30 am. Parking will be available at the park. Be advised: there are no toilet facilities in Riverside Park.

Meeting, Tuesday, October 17- Tonight's speaker is **George Wuerthner**. George is a **photographer, ecologist, and writer**. He has visited hundreds of mountain ranges around the West, more than 380 wilderness areas, more than 180 national park units, and every national forest west of the Mississippi. He has published 38 books including *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*. This evening he will be discussing the latest science regarding fire and forest health issues, particularly as how they relate to federal land management policies. Is what we have been doing sustainable? George will be discussing these and other ecological issues. He is a knowledgeable and experienced speaker, and this promises to be a very interesting evening.

Field Trip, Saturday, October 21- Clear Lake- Join us for a morning of birding at **Clear Lake State Park**. This beautiful park has a variety of habitats that support a great diversity of birds, and it is a great time of year to be out in the oaks enjoying the fall colors. Expect to see some birds we seldom see in Ukiah- American White Pelicans, Bonaparte's Gulls, and an abundance of water birds. We depart from the CVS parking lot at 8 am, and should arrive at the Visitor Center by 9 if you prefer to meet us there. Be sure to bring a lunch and something to drink for a picnic in the park. For those wishing to continue birding in the afternoon, we will probably be visiting the Lakeside County Park and Rodman Slough areas on our way back to Ukiah.

Meeting, Tuesday, Nov 14- Joint meeting with CNPS about **Oak Woodlands**. Details in the next newsletter.

Field Trip, Saturday, Nov 18- Round Valley- Join us for a fall visit to the Round Valley area, one of our favorite destinations. This beautiful valley with its open grasslands and large Valley Oaks is home to a number of winter visitors not commonly seen in the Ukiah area. In past years birds of note here have included Bald Eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and Canyon Wrens. Time and weather permitting we will continue east to the Black Butte/Eel River campground for a picnic and more birding. Meet before our 7:30 am departure from the CVS parking lot, or at 8 at the parking lot in front of Willits High School. We should reach Covelo and Keith's Market around 10:30.

Meeting, Tuesday, Dec 12- This evening will our annual **Know Your Local Birds Slideshow and Christmas Bird Count Review**. **Bob Keiffer** will again be giving his excellent introduction to our local wintering birds. The CBC itself is a good opportunity for birders of all experience levels to help us identify and count birds. You can assist even if you only want to count birds at your home feeders. There will be a counting group expressly for beginning birders. Everyone is welcomed to participate! After the photo presentation you will have an opportunity to sign up for your favorite area in the count circle. If you want to help out, but are unable to attend this meeting, contact Cheryl Watson (cwatson@pacific.net).

Christmas Bird Count and Compilation Dinner- Saturday, Dec 16- If you wish to participate in the CBC, please attend the December 13 meeting for details. Our traditional compilation dinner will be held at the Grace Hudson Museum public room at 6 pm. Bring your own place settings and beverages as well as a main course, salad, or dessert to share. Assistance in setting up at 5 to 5:30 and cleaning up after the dinner would be appreciated.

Meeting, Tuesday, Jan 16- Birding with Buddha: Birds and Natural History of the Kingdom of Bhutan with our guide **Josh Engel**. There is an air of mystery about the Kingdom of Bhutan, nestled in the rugged Himalayas, where legends of dragons and yetis abound. Despite being sandwiched between the world's two most populous countries, it has maintained a fierce independence for centuries, with a unique culture deeply rooted in its Buddhist heritage. It is also a country with a strong conservation ethic and an extensive system of national park that protects the many birds and mammals that are unique to the eastern Himalayas. Searching for hornbills, wren-babblers, laughing thrushes, rose finches, pheasants, and other Asian avian delights with a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and spectacular traditional architecture makes birding in Bhutan is like no other trip on earth. Josh presents a lavishly illustrated talk from the standpoint of a virtual tour, taking you clear across the tiny country from the lowland forests at the Indian border to the high mountain passes strewn with prayer flags. Josh is the founder of Red Hill Birding, and has guided trips on four continents and conducted bird research on a fifth. When he's not working on Red Hill Birding, he's an ornithologist at The Field Museum in Chicago. This promises to be a fascinating evening!

Falcon Flyer Going Electronic-only



At our August Board Meeting, the board unanimously voted to cease the mailing of printed versions of our newsletter in January of 2018. This is a move the board has been contemplating for a while now, as costs for printing and mailing have continued to rise (we spend more than \$300 to print and mail each newsletter) and most people now have reasonable access to the internet. Many other regional chapters have already switched to e-delivery. So how will this work? Those of us on Peregrine Audubon's email list got a sneak-peak last May when, due to scheduling conflicts amongst our all-volunteer board, we received a notice that the Flyer was available to download by clicking a link in said email. The latest PDF version of the flyer has been posted on the peregrineaudubon.org for years now, and the email was simply a reminder that the new version was up and ready to grab. This is the model we expect to follow in the immediate future. While this move will save the

chapter considerable time and expense, your membership is valued and fees will continue to be put to good use. We will continue to accept fees when due, but will be replacing expiration notices with a yearly membership drive. It is essential that we have your e-mail address in order for you to receive these notices. If you have been receiving email announcements from Peregrine Audubon at your preferred email address, you're all set. If not, you can sign up using the form at the bottom of our website, peregrineaudubon.org, or you can leave your address with one of our board members at a meeting. Thank you for your help with this transition!



Riverside Park

This city property has easy access from Ukiah and Hwy 101, but is largely unimproved and does not have restrooms. It has multiple uses including 3 little-league fields and a BMX track. It was formerly a wastewater treatment plant and a dump of sorts, but it is slowly being renovated as the city finds grant funds to do so. At the north side of the property a recently-installed asphalt walkway leads east from the parking lot and intersects with a stairway down to the Russian River. The paved path continues to the south, eventually turns into a gravel path, and a bit further is a gradual ramp down to another vista along the river. Informal paths fan out to the south from here, some in better shape than others. The City will likely be cleaning up the southern portion of the property in the future, thanks to a recent grant.

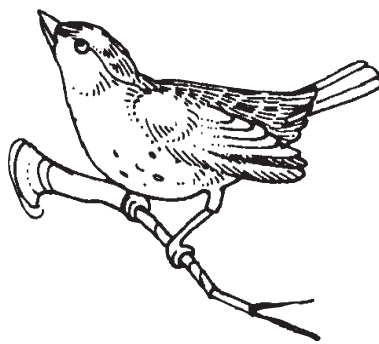
Birding can be excellent, with 132 species currently having been recorded on eBird.<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L1529614>. Riparian, oak woodland and grassland species are well-represented, with occasional waterfowl. Year-round residents include all 5 of our local Woodpeckers, both Towhees, Bewick's Wrens, Brown Creepers, Oak Titmouse, Bushtits, Black Phoebes, Finches and Goldfinches. Raptors including Kites, most of our Hawks and Falcons, as well as Belted Kingfishers, are also relatively common.

During the winter, birders could typically see both of the crowned Sparrows with an occasional White-throated Sparrow, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, large numbers of Robins and Starlings, and occasional Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Say's Phoebe. Just about all of our lowland neotropical and other passerine migrants pass through and/or nest along the river during spring and summer, including Swallows, Cassin's and Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Western Tanager, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Wood-Pee-wee, Ash-throated and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Chipping Sparrows. Wood Ducks may nest here. Fall can be a great time to see southbound Willow Flycatchers along the river.

Directions: The park is located at the East end of Gobbi Street, which is a freeway exit. It has a large parking area inside the gates, but as the City currently keeps the gates closed by default, it is best to park outside of the gates unless you are certain that the gates will remain open throughout your visit. There are no restroom facilities currently.

SPRING 2017 BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

There were several interesting waterfowl reported this spring. A very late adult SNOW GOOSE was seen at the Crofoot Ranch north of Hopland (4/1;BK). The only reports of EURASIAN WIGEON this spring were 2 seen at the Willits WWTP (4/3;MC). An adult female COMMON GOLDENEYE found at the Ukiah WWTP (5/28;CW) was extremely late for this species which has usually left the area in April. Four SURF SCOTERS (2m, 2f) were found at the north end of Lake Mendocino (5/26;GC,KH,CV), and this is only the 6th time these birds have been reported in spring from inland Mendocino County. The FERRUGINOUS HAWK seen at the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project site (5/2;DB,GC,Md) was the latest-ever report of this bird in the county. They are seldom seen after March. The single SANDHILL CRANE flying over Albion Ridge (4/20;TB), a very rare bird locally any time of year, was just the 4th spring record in the county! AMERICAN AVOCETS successfully nested again at the Ukiah WWTP where an adult pair fledged 4 young birds (3/23 thru the period;CV;mob). This is the only location in Mendocino County that these birds are ever known to have nested.



The repositioning of cruise ships between California and Washington has given birders a new opportunity to search for deep-water pelagic birds. This spring single MURPHY'S PETRELS were seen on two of these trips (5/3;PL and 5/11;KR,SC). Up to 5 HAWAIIAN PETRELS were also seen on the 5/3 trip (PL). Five FORK-TAILED STORM-PETRELS were seen right off of Laguna Point during 40 knot NW winds on 5/6 (CV,JW). A first summer GLAUCOUS GULL seen on Manchester State Beach (5/30;CV) was the latest spring bird for Mendocino County by a full month. Two ELEGANT TERNS seen off the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens on 5/5 (JW) were our only report of these extremely rare spring visitor.

An adult male BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD was seen east of Ukiah on 5/2 (CV), the only report of this extremely rare spring migrant this year. The adult male LAPLAND LONGSPUR seen in MacKerricher SP (3/5-12;WM;mob) was only our 4th spring record. A

singing adult male BLACK-AND-WHITE-WARBLER was seen in downtown Ukiah (4/8;KH). This was just the 6th spring record for the county. Three GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES were seen this spring, all inland: an adult female at the Willits WWTP (4/3-4;MC), an adult female at the Ukiah WWTP (4/18-19;LC;mob), and an adult male at the north end of Lake Mendocino (5/24-25;KL;KH). The range of these birds appears to be rapidly expanding into Mendocino County. The first county record was a coastal bird in 1993 (DT). Between 1993 and 2011 there were fewer than 10 total reports county-wide. Since 2012 they have been seen annually and in increasing numbers, and have successfully bred at the Willits WWTP.

That's it! Please be sure to report all rare and unusual birds to Bob Keiffer (744-1424, rjkeiffer@att.net), to Mendobirds (groups.yahoo.com/group/Mendobirds), and to eBird (ebird.org/content/ebird).

Observers: Dave Bengston, Tim Bray, Steve Calcer, Luke Cannon, George Chanot, Mike Curry, Marisela de Santa Anna, Karen Havlena, Bob Keiffer, Paul Lehman, Keith Leland, William Marengo, Kim Risen, Chuck Vaughn, Cheryl Watson, Jerry White

Donations

•Lynne Coen and
Charles Holt

Central Valley Birding Symposium 2017

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 21st annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 16-19, 2017, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

New this year, is a Thursday field trip with Jon Dunn, then the CVBS kicks off with a scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet & no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program on "Wings over the Central Valley".

Friday night's keynote program "Bank Swallow Colonies on the Upper Sacramento River" will be presented by Dawn Garcia.

Saturday night's keynote program, "Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year" will be presented by Noah Strycker. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year, in which he set a world record by seeing 6,042 birds in one calendar year, will give you a real appreciation for the birds and

birders of the world. His newest book, *Birding Without Borders*, about his around-the-world Big Year, is due out in fall 2017.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: "Wintering Burrowing Owls in the Central Valley" with Lynne Trulio, "Neotropic Migrants" with Joe Morlan, "Winter Waterfowl in the Central Valley" by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Image Editing (Bob Steele), Bird Sketching (Keith Hansen), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/

Registration begins September 8, 2017.

Peregrine Audubon needs your help!

Please support local Peregrine conservation and educational programs with your tax deductible donation. All money goes directly to Peregrine projects and none to administrative costs.

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

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Please make checks payable to Peregrine Audubon Society
PO Box 311, Ukiah, CA 95482

How would you like this donation to be acknowledged
in the newsletter? _____



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Peregrine Audubon Society *Local Membership Only*

- Yes, I'd like to join the **Peregrine Audubon Society** - \$20
- Check box if you do not wish to receive the *Falcon Flyer*.
National Audubon Society members already receive a complementary newsletter.

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