



# 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, Nov 14** (*Please note that this is the second Tuesday of November*). **The Oaks' Story with Pahlada Papper.** This will be a joint meeting with the Native Plant Society. Pahlada Papper wonders about California oaks. He wonders about their ecology and their evolution, about their past and their future. His graduate research at UC Berkeley focuses on how environmental change affects the genetic diversity of oaks by changing their phenology. Phenology is the study of the timing of life cycle events, such as the leafing out and flowering of a plant or the migration of an animal. Phenological timing depends on cues from the environment, including the local climate. As a result, phenological monitoring is an important way to observe the real biological effects of ongoing climate change. Pahlada is an educator and naturalist as well as a Ph.D. student in Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley in David Ackerly's lab. His local research at the Hopland Research and Extension Center involves genetic and ecological studies of California oak woodlands, including citizen science-based phenological monitoring. He combines the modern ecological toolkit of genome sequencing and statistical modeling with classic natural history and deep sense of place to tell the old stories about oaks in a new way.

**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. This is pretty much a full-day trip so if you need to leave early please plan to drive your own vehicle.

**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 12 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 parks 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 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!

**Field Trip, Saturday, January 20-** We will be making a **birding trip to the south coast of Mendocino County,** focusing on the Point Arena and Manchester areas. This is an excellent area for raptors, including Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. The Garcia River area is also the winter home for Tundra Swans and a variety of waterfowl. We will be car-pooling from the CVS parking lot along Orchard Avenue. It is a long drive, and we will be leaving at 7:30. Dress in layers and pack a lunch. This is pretty much a full-day trip so if you need to leave early please plan to drive your own vehicle.

**Meeting, Tuesday, Feb 20- Birds of Prey:** Presentation with **Larry Broderick** Join us for this enthusiastic and informative presentation about the resident, migrant and over-wintering birds of prey ("raptors") in Northern California. Larry Broderick's fascinating and visually-exciting presentation includes not only wonderful first-hand stories from the field, but also is packed with interesting information about raptor habits, identification, and suggestions of where to spot them, as well as some interesting one-of-a-kind and rare special surprises. Larry is a Sonoma County Birds of Prey Natural History and Interpretive Specialist, Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch Director and Certified California Naturalist. He has been working with birds of prey as an educational specialist for over 25 years. For the last 10 years he has led walks, hikes and presentations with Solano and Sonoma Land Trusts, Madrone Audubon, Bird Rescue Center and Redwood Regional Ornithological Society. Larry conducts Bird and Wildlife surveys for the Wildlands Conservancy, Sonoma Land Trust and Pepperwood Preserve. He also runs West County Hawkwatch and manages dozens of docents, photographers and tour guides.

**Field Trip, Saturday, February 24- Beginner's Birdwalk and Family Day at the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant.** We encourage participants of all ages and birding experience levels to come out for this leisurely walk. At the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant, or UWWTP, you can probably see more species of birds in less time than anywhere else in the Ukiah valley. Its habitat range is outstanding: riparian areas adjacent to the Russian River, settling ponds, beautiful stands of mature valley oaks, blackberry thickets, and adjacent open grasslands. Meet at the UWWTP office area at 8:30. The walk around the oxidation ponds is about one mile, all on level ground.

# 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. This move will save the chapter con-

siderable time and expense, but your membership is valued and your annual dues will continue to be put to good use. While we will continue to rely on the income from these local memberships, we 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 email address with one of our board members at a meeting. If you do not have internet access, we can send limited numbers of paper copies of the newsletter. In that case, phone Chuck Vaughn (462-8137) to leave your mailing address. Thank you for your help with this transition!



## October 7 Beginner's Walk at Riverside Park

We had a nice turnout of 13 folks including 3 children. The weather was pleasant, being before the fires had started. We saw around 45 species, with a lone Black-throated Gray Warbler being probably the find of the day at this location and time of year. We had nice looks at a Brown Creeper, a likely resident at the park. It seems that this year has either been a good breeding year for Chestnut-backed Chickadees or that they've moved in numbers to the valley floor of the Ukiah area seeking an alternate food source, but in any case we had nice looks at several birds in mixed flocks. In recent years this would have been unexpected. We saw most of the expected migratory winter residents plus a few holdout summer residents yet to depart (or migrating birds on stopover), such as Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and a few swallows flying high. We had nice looks at Turkey Vultures and a few raptors. All in all, it was a pleasant way to spend a morning.

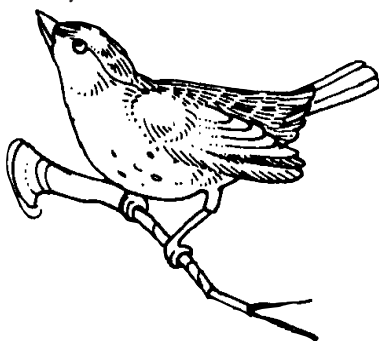
# SUMMER 2017 BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

By Chuck Vaughn and Bob Keiffer

Most of the rare bird highlights this summer involved water and shorebirds. An adult pair (m,f) of GREEN-WINGED TEAL was seen at the Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on 6/2 (MC). This was just the 4th time these birds have been seen in summer in Mendocino County. An adult female COMMON GOLDENEYE found in May (CW,GH) continued at the Ukiah WWTP through the period (mob). This was only our 5th summer record in the county. A RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was seen at the Ukiah WWTP on 7/31 (CV). This bird, which is rarely seen inland in Mendocino County, was only our 3rd summer record. Other rare summer ducks locally included up to 6 NORTHERN SHOVELERS at the Willits WWTP (7/5-7;MC), and an adult male RING-NECKED DUCK at the Ukiah WWTP (7/27-31;CV). COMMON LOONS are rare inland any time of year, but the adult and accompanying juvenile found and photographed at Lake Mendocino (7/28;KhL,KtL) are the first ever reported inland in the summer! An adult GREAT EGRET tending 2 juveniles on a nest near Hopland (6/15-7/6;CV) is certainly the first confirmed breeding for these birds inland. Always rare inland, the adult male BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at the Ukiah WWTP m(7/31;CV) was only our third summer report for this bird. Two extremely early ANCIENT MURRELETS photographed on the coast off Bruhel Point were just the 3rd and 4th ever reported in summer in the county. Some other summer shorebird highlights included 2 LONG-BILLED CURLEWS, a RED KNOT, and a BAIRD'S SANPIPER on the coast, and a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER and 2 WILSON'S PHALAROPES at the Ukiah WWTP.

A juvenile NORTHERN HARRIER seen and photographed north of Willits (7/20;Md,GG,CV) was the first bird ever reported inland during the summer period! These birds do breed on our coast, so was it a coastal dispersal or did they breed in Little Lake Valley? BALD EAGLES successfully fledged young from 2 nest sites in the county this summer: near Hopland (JB) and on the Eel River north of Potter Valley (GC). This is a hopeful sign of

their local recovery. Two FLAMMULATED OWLS were recorded calling near Spruce Grove in the Mendocino NF (7/1;GG,RK), and that was the only report of these rare and elusive montane breeders. An adult male GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE was seen in Willits (6/1-2;JM). This is the third report of these birds in Little Lake Valley in the past 2 summers. Are they breeding there? Finally, the only report of the enigmatic LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCHES in the county this summer was a single bird north of Willits (7/18;MC,Md). 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: Jack Booth, George Chaniot, Marisela de Santa Anna, Mike Curry, George Gibbs, Geoff Heinecken, Ryan Keiffer, Keith Leland, Kent Leland, Joe Madden, Jonah Svensson, Chuck Vaughn, Cheryl Watson

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

# Snow Goose Festival

Save the date! -- January 24-28, 2018

This action-packed 5-day event celebrates the remarkable journey of millions of waterfowl and raptors along the Pacific Flyway that call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months.

Jon L. Dunn, Author of "National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America" Will Be the Keynote Speaker

Chief consultant and author of all seven editions of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, and a birding tour leader for over 30 years, Jon L. Dunn will share his passion for birds and exceptional knowledge of the challenges of identifying the Pacific Flyway's waterfowl.

Jon Dunn has spent much of his life birding in California. He is a tour leader for Wings and has written (or co-authored) numerous articles and a handful of books on bird identification and distribution. Jon became hooked on birding at age 11, and working with young birders is a special passion of his. According to Jon, "Every kid needs a passion, so why not birds? Besides, the more birders there are, especially those who are passionate with a voice, the better chance we have of advocating positions in the political arena that actually might save birds." Jon is a board member for Western Field Ornithologists and lives in Bishop, California, on the east side of the Sierra Nevada. --

ABA Birding Magazine  
Field Trips and Workshops

Choose from over 70 field trips and workshops that are sure to appeal to a wide variety of interests and ability levels. In addition to numerous bird-watching field trips for waterfowl, cranes, raptors and songbirds, you might choose to take a guided tour of a nature preserve, visit a local vineyard, or hike the scenic Sutter Buttes in search of lofty views and resident wildlife. Our workshops offer something for everyone! Learn about nature photography, bird carving, how to record nature sounds, how to identify those backyard birds, and much more. Free nature activities are offered for youth, as well as armchair adventures for all.

If you have any questions, you can reach us at [info@snow-goosefestival.org](mailto:info@snow-goosefestival.org), or by calling the Festival Office at 530-592-9092.

Registration Begins in Early December (or sooner)

We highly recommend getting on our email list as soon as possible. Emails will go out to notify you when Registration opens, of various deadlines, and changes and additions to the program along the way. You can follow us on Facebook, too! Get notified by email by [click here](#), And please Like us on Facebook

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## Buy Duck Stamps

by *Dave Bengston*

If you want to make a difference in preserving land for wildlife, one of the best investments you can make is to purchase duck stamps, on sale now for \$25. This program is one of the most successful conservation programs in our nation's history. They are also known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps. The program was first created in 1934 when FDR was President by the Duck Stamp Act to stop the destruction of wild lands needed for the preservation of waterfowl and other wildlife. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar from the purchase of duck stamps goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Since 1934, this program has generated over \$800 million to put land into the National Wildlife Refuge System. This has conserved more than 5.7 million acres. In California, this has purchased over 75,000 acres and leased almost 106,000 acres for a total of almost 335,000 acres to protect and preserve wildlife. Another benefit of the program is to protect and store ground water, filter pollutants, provide flood protection

and provide nurseries for many species. Of course, the big benefit for us birders is that it provides places for us to go and view wildlife.

If you have never visited a National Wildlife Refuge, you should make immediate plans for a visit this fall or winter. The Duck Stamps are also used as annual passes for admittance to any Wildlife Refuge that charges a fee. The annual contest to draw and select a stamp to be used provides for many great works of art depicting waterfowl.

In 2014 I was in Florida and I visited Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge where the contestants' art was on display. They were fabulous. "Ding" Darling was also the first designer of the first duck stamp in 1934. In 1989, a Junior Duck Stamp program was created to introduce kids to conservation and art. The winning art goes onto a stamp which sells for \$5. Duck Stamps may be purchased at some Post Offices, and are now available online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com), [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), some National Wildlife Refuges, the American Birding Association, and many other stores which sell sporting goods.

Peregrine Audubon Society  
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Ukiah, CA 95482

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# Falcon Flyer



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

[www.peregrineaudubon.org](http://www.peregrineaudubon.org)

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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.

Please send \$20 for membership payable to:

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Chapter C2ZC540Z