

# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

## January 25-29, 2017

*Wednesday, January 25*

### Field Trips

#### **Bird Photography at Rancho Esquon**

Wed 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Bird photography is a rapidly-growing past-time. This workshop will be held at [Rancho Esquon](#), a 900-acre private holding that is managed to assist the increase of suitable habitat essential to over 300 species of birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway. The workshop focuses on the basics of bird and other wildlife photography from its history, advances in equipment types, equipment uses and settings to the discussion of various field techniques. It includes where and how to best approach wildlife, what makes a good image, and ends with ethical and legal aspects. The hour-long PowerPoint presentation points out mistakes many novice photographers initially make and how to correct them. The session will be followed with a field trip to nearby wetlands for the purpose of applying some of the techniques discussed. Youth, age 16 & 17, are welcome. Dress warmly and bring water and a snack. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Dean Carrier*

#### **Soils, Landforms, & Vegetation of Bidwell Park **NEW****

Wed 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This trip begins in the flood plain of Big Chico Creek and travels back in time across the older deposits of the creek and up onto the Cascade foothills. The first route covers a condensed sequence of the major landforms that occur in the Sacramento Valley as well as the transition to the Tuscan Formation in the Cascade foothills in less than 1 mile. The second route is a 1.5 mile one-way walk up the bottom of Big Chico Creek Canyon applying what was observed on the first route and viewing the slot canyon in the Lovejoy basalt which controls the stream dynamics in this reach of the canyon. Vegetation and habitats will be correlated to soil characteristics and landforms along both routes. We will do some free-style birding on our hike back. Please bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Dress warmly and wear hiking shoes. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Andrew Conlin and Birder, Phil Johnson*

#### **Up the Creek with a Pair of Binoculars**

Wed 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) is part of the larger Big Chico Creek watershed and home to a great diversity of plants and animals, including over 100 bird species. A historical ranch, the BCCER is now a place for education, research, and habitat enhancement. We will bird the oak woodland/chaparral of the upper canyon, then we'll head down to the riparian area along the creek. This is a special opportunity to be transported by vehicle through a steep and somewhat remote area with only walk-in access for the public. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jon Aull and Charlie Cornell*

## Raptor Run **NEW**

Wed 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The Northern Sacramento River Valley hosts a large assortment of raptors that during our relatively mild, wet winters is augmented by an almost equally large contingent of wintering species, some of which exploit our fantastic cohort of wintering waterfowl and others the vast expanses of grasslands and fallow ag lands. January is one of the best months for raptor viewing in Butte County; accordingly, we will caravan southward along Hwy 99 to the environs south of Chico to seek as many of these birds of prey as we can. Target species include Bald and Golden Eagles, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Merlin, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Burrowing Owl. Dress for potentially cold, wet weather; bring a scope if you have one; and binoculars are a **MUST! Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. This trip is also offered on Saturday with Ken Sobon and Gary Nielsen.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Gary Nielsen*

## Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Wed 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Leaving Chico in the early afternoon will give us plenty of time to stop and look for geese, swans, and cranes on our way to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. We will arrive at the refuge in time to witness thousands of birds silhouetted against the sunset sky as they leave the refuge all at once in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. **This trip is also offered on Thursday and Friday with a different leader.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Mike Boyd*

## Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Wed 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This field trip will visit two of Chico's best birding sites and is appropriate for beginning to advanced birders. First we will explore the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant. We'll spend a couple of hours walking the levees around the ponds where we hope to find many species of migrating waterfowl as well as resident birds and mammals. We will then go over to the Indian Fishery Day Use Area of Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. There the half-mile trail winds through an oak woodland forest adjacent to an oxbow lake. Woodpeckers abound along with many other woodland and aquatic birds. If we are lucky we may also see River Otter, Beaver, and Pond Turtles. Bring binoculars. **This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings with different leaders.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Steve King*

## Eagle Roost Safari **NEW**

Wed 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be provided)*

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor. Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. **This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** \$95 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## *Thursday, January 26* **Field Trips**

### **Marathon Big Day Birding in Glenn County **NEW****

Thu 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Scott's Marathon Big Days are like birding on steroids! Fun, frenetic, high-energy, fast paced! All in an attempt to record as many species as can be seen within Glenn County in one day. We will visit the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Stonyford Reservoir, and venture up into the west-side chaparral and montane areas. If you've got what it takes, have a great sense of humor and adventure, and don't mind waiting too long between restroom stops, join this trip! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$30 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Scott Huber*

### **Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail**

Thu 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Bidwell Park is one of the largest city parks in the United States, with a range of habitat types and recreational uses. Starting at Horseshoe Lake, we will hike about 4 miles round-trip of the Yahi Trail along Big Chico Creek. This stretch of rich riparian habitat provides excellent viewing opportunities of many riparian and oak woodland plant and animal species, and it has some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. Common sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit. Many other species are possible, and it's always worth a walk down this trail to find out! Wear comfortable hiking shoes and layers, and bring water and snacks. **This trip is also offered on Sunday morning with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Carrie Wendt and Kate Howard*

## Winter Raptors

Thu 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. On this trip we will not just tick off birds, but we will study hunting behaviors, and plumage differences. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural differences between species and discuss why some raptors have special features. Why do some raptors and not others have feathered legs? By the end of the trip, everybody will know and appreciate more about each species. Bring water and lunch. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech*

## Divide Ranch (includes lunch)

Thu 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Nestled in the beautiful foothills of Western Glenn County, you'll visit areas of the [Divide Ranch](#) cattle operation. This is a family owned and operated 2000-acre cattle ranch with an additional 3000-acre ranch that the family leases. The family's love for the land and its agricultural heritage has inspired them to create numerous riparian areas for wildlife habitat and a grazing management plan that places a strong emphasis on the health of the range. Numbers of deer, turtles, beavers, raptors, ducks, and other birds have increased greatly in these areas. **Following your time outdoors, you will enjoy lunch at the ranch house with Divide Ranch's 100% Grass-Fed Beef on the menu. An extra pair of waterproof boots is a must due to a creek crossing.** [Divide Ranch's](#) 100% Grass-Fed beef will be available for sale, so bring your ice chests! A\$37 - Y\$17 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Mike and Kathy Landini and Donald Beers*

## Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Thu 8:30 am - 11:00 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Enjoy a bird walk through Bidwell Park with ornithologist and author of *Birds of Bidwell Park*, Roger Lederer and his wife, Carol. Learn amazing facts about the birds of the park and how to identify them. Bidwell Park is a wonderful place to see birds because it is both semi-wild and very accessible. It is excellent birding for both the beginner and expert. **This trip is also offered on Friday.** A\$12 - Y\$8 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr*

## Rancho Esquon

Thu 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Just a short drive outside Durham, along the roadways bordering [Rancho Esquon](#), multitudes of **Snow Geese**, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes can usually be seen right from your vehicle! Bald Eagles are occasionally spotted perched in the snags along the agricultural wetlands. Upon arrival at Rancho Esquon, we will visit the wildlife bunkhouse and receive a brief orientation about the diverse undertakings of this complex rice ranch. We will then head out to visit the 1,000-acre restored wetland area, which offers views of high concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, and varied wildlife. **This trip is also offered on Sunday with a different leader.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Herman Gray and Rick Wulbern and Heidi Ortiz*

## Gray Lodge & Cordi Winery

Thu 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is one of the premier winter birding areas in Northern Sacramento Valley. With its varied habitats, flat hiking trails, viewing hides, and a 3-mile auto loop, viewing the million plus ducks, hundreds of thousands of **Snow** and **Ross's Geese**, and raptors galore will be spectacular! Then we'll take a short drive to [Cordi Winery](#), nestled at the base of the Sutter Buttes, for some wine tasting and R & R after your big day of birding. Bring snacks, lunch, water, a field guide, and binoculars. Dress for the winter weather and wear hiking shoes or boots. A\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams*

## Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Thu 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Friday with a different leader.** (See Wednesday's description.)

A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Jan Martinez*

## Eagle Roost Safari **NEW**

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be provided)*

**This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** (See Wednesday's description.) \$95 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## Historic Rancho Llano Seco -- Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This is a "behind the gates" opportunity to visit the historic [Rancho Llano Seco](#) where thousands of acres are set aside for wildlife habitat and conservation. Habitats include riparian forests of the Sacramento River and Little Chico Creek, Valley oak woodlands and savannas, native and annual grasslands, vernal pool and freshwater marsh wetlands. These habitats attract wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes, as well as a variety of raptors. We'll hear about the Rancho's rich natural and cultural histories, its wildlife habitats, and wildlife-friendly farming practices. A field trip will wind through a majestic Valley oak woodland, where we will stretch our legs before heading to the marsh to scout-out ducks, geese, Sandhill Cranes, and other wildlife. Participants will also meet with Joe Silveira, US Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologist, who manages the wildlife habitat programs at Llano Seco. Dress warmly, bring a warm beverage, and do bring your binoculars -- we may have a chance to see hundreds of wintering ducks, geese, and Sandhill Cranes! **This tour leaves the ranch after dark.**

*(Above photo courtesy of [FareResources](#))* A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Richard Thieriot*

## Bat Safari

Thu 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This outing offers a unique up-close and personal glimpse into the world of bats. We will utilize mist nets to potentially capture some of the bat species that utilize the Chico area. We will also utilize acoustic equipment to record and identify bats using their call characteristics. Bring headlamps (preferred) or flashlights, chairs, warm clothes (including a stocking cap), cameras, and snacks/hot drinks. It should be noted that these animals do not read the text books so there will be no guarantee of any successful captures. Youth, age 9 to 17, are welcome.

Bring waders if you have them, but they are not required. Rain or cold weather will cancel this event only.

A\$22 - Y\$8 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Linda Angerer*

## Winter Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Thu 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This is a rare chance to observe an owl research project studying winter use of foothill habitat. Mist nets and an audio lure will be used to attempt to capture, band and release Northern Saw-whet Owls. Bring headlamps or flashlights, chairs, warm clothes, cameras, and snacks, and/or hot drinks. Rain and/or high winds cancel this event only. All other Snow Goose Festival events go on as scheduled, rain or shine. A\$30 - Y\$15 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Owl Monitoring Team*

## Winter Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Thu 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

(see description above)

*Field Trip Leaders: Dawn Garcia and Owl Monitoring Team*

## Friday, January 27

### Field Trips

#### Paddle the Thermalito Afterbay **NEW**

Fri 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Come paddle the Afterbay with experienced guides from the [Forebay Aquatic Center](#) who are familiar with the abundant and diverse wildlife present throughout the Oroville Wildlife Refuge. These ecological tours will educate flat-water boaters on ecology and safe boating practices while fostering an appreciation for the Oroville Thermalito Complex. Floats are appropriate for ages 8-80 and are a low-impact, physically-active way to view the wildlife and migratory waterfowl prominent during this time. Our trip has access to the non-motorized State Park areas that are inaccessible to motorized vehicles and boats. You will ride in either a single or tandem sit-on-top kayak. Youth 12 years of age or under will travel in a double kayak or demonstrate appropriate skill level. Guests will be provided with all boating equipment and fundamental paddling instruction for novice to experienced. Bring appropriately warm and waterproof clothing, cameras, and binoculars. A\$45 - Y\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Brad Cooke and James Shipps*

## Marathon Big Day Birding in Butte County

Fri 7:00 am - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Be prepared for an exciting and exhaustive quest to see the maximum number of northern California bird species possible between dawn and dusk! We'll go high for species like Evening Grosbeak, Varied Thrush, and White-headed, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpecker. At mid-elevation we'll watch for California Thrasher and Golden Eagle. In the plains we'll look for Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Burrowing and Short-eared Owl, grebes, and possibly Common Loon. We will also go low for Eurasian Wigeon and other rare waterfowl. Expect more than 100 species on this fun, fast-paced adventure! **Bring lunch, water, and binoculars and be prepared to eat in the vehicles while driving to locations. Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. No early departures on this trip.** A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 4

*Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster*

## Red Bluff Recreation Area

Fri 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center at 7:30 am*

*Meet at Sacramento River Discovery Center at 8:30 am*

The [Sacramento River Discovery Center](#), located near the river in the Red Bluff Recreation Area, will be the take-off point for this exciting birding adventure. This is an ideal place to see a large variety of species in the area's oak woodlands, riparian, and upland habitats. Target birds are Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Goldeneye, and lots of woodland birds. Past sightings include Barrow's Goldeneye, Phainopepla, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Over 120 different species of birds have been sighted in this area throughout the year. This trip is recommended for birders from beginner to advanced. Please bring lunch, water, and binoculars, and be prepared for any weather possibility. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: David Dahnke*

## Paskenta's C & R Ranch (includes lunch)

Fri 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The C&R ranch captures the beauty of the coast range foothills and North Valley panorama. The Blue Oak/Valley Oak woodlands and grasslands host a variety of birds like Western Bluebird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark, Golden and Bald Eagles, and American Kestrel. Several restoration efforts are underway at the Ranch. We will return to Chico via Newville Rd. in search of Mountain Bluebird and Ferruginous Hawk. **Lunch will be provided by C&R Ranch.** Wear sturdy hiking shoes. A\$37 - Y\$17 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Phil Johnson*

## **Digiscoping & Phonescoping Workshop/Field Trip**

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Taking pictures through a spotting scope with your camera of wildlife is an excellent way to document your sightings and is pure fun. In this seminar, we will spend time in the classroom to help you make some preliminary camera settings. Then we will step outside and get some nature photos. Bruce Webb, Field Technician for Swarovski Optik, will work with participants on topics such as: using the camera on your smart phone; using a simple point and shoot type camera; and using a sophisticated DSLR camera. We will work on choosing the best camera to scope mounting options, shooting tips, techniques in the field, and using these cameras behind the spotting scope eyepiece. Participants are encouraged to bring their spotting scope and cameras. Bring more than one camera if you have them. We will spend about 3 hours. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 1  
*Field Trip Leader: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech*

## **Rancho Llano Seco -- Farms, Water, & Wildlife**

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Farming operations and managed wildlife areas at [Rancho Llano Seco](#) rely on a water delivery system that draws from the Sacramento River, Butte Creek, and the Feather River. On this tour you will see and learn about the ranch water delivery system that has been in use for over 100 years. Tour guides, John Hunt and Paul Kirk, are local ecologists who have been involved in wildlife studies, habitat restoration, and resource management at the ranch for over 15 years. You will walk along the valley oak woodlands, savannas, and freshwater marshes associated with Angel Slough and the water delivery system. Dress warmly and be sure to bring your binoculars, as these habitats will provide ample opportunity to see wintering waterfowl, including Sandhill Cranes and other migratory birds. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Paul Kirk and John W. Hunt*

## **Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch**

Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Gridley McDonald's*

Enjoy a three-mile walk to visit the 100-year-old Dean Place Cattle Ranch. This trip will focus primarily on birding with hopes of seeing Golden Eagles, Phainopeplas, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, so bring binoculars along with lunch and water. **No early departures on this trip.** Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Peter Sands*

## Yana Trail **NEW**

Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The Yana trail is perhaps the best winter hike in the North State. The trail crosses ponds, riparian zones, rolling blue oak savannah, and lava rock canyons. On the drive to the trailhead, we will stop at ponds off of Bend Ferry Road to look for waterfowl. We then continue to the trailhead and make a diversion to the Perry Riffle on the Sacramento River to view birds in this riparian zone. We will then rejoin the Yana trail and hike northward toward Massacre Flats. Expect an abundance of Lewis's Woodpeckers and enjoy close observations of woodland and riparian birds found in this area in winter: White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a variety of sparrows, Common Mergansers, herons and egrets. There is a good chance that large flocks of ducks and geese, and if lucky, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Prairie Falcons will be flying overhead. The hills should be very green by late January, and this trail offers stunning views of the Sacramento River and snow-capped Mt. Lassen. Trip leader will allow those who cannot complete entire 9-mile round trip hike to return to the trailhead early if this distance is too strenuous for some. Bring water, a hiking/trekking staff if desired, lunch, and sturdy hiking footwear and pack a raincoat. It's a lovely hike in the rain! A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey*

## Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Fri 8:30 am - 11:00 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Thursday.** (See Thursday's description.) A\$12 - Y\$8 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr*

## Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Fri 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Wildlife and wintering waterfowl are exceptional at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, especially along the gravel auto tour, the nature trail, and at the observation deck. Spectacular flights of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese along with thousands of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, and Northern Shovelers can be seen in the marshes. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Joseph O'Neil*

## Dye Creek Preserve

Fri 8:45 am - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Visit the rugged Dye Creek Preserve in the Lassen Foothill region of eastern Tehama County. Depending on weather conditions, we will hike the scenic Dye Creek Canyon or visit a stream-side restoration site along the lower flood plain as we discuss land management efforts by The Nature Conservancy. Expect to see birds common to oak woodlands such as the Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, and California Quail. Ferruginous Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Golden Eagle may also be seen at the Preserve. Bring lunch and drink. **Boots/sturdy footwear is a MUST!** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Jesse Klingler*

## Birds & Wine with Purple Line **NEW**

Fri 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Purple Line Urban Winery in downtown Oroville, a boutique winery that produces hand-crafted wines, will be your last stop on this amazing birding adventure that will first take you to see the swans, geese, and raptors along Cottonwood Road off Hwy 99. Then on to Oroville to hike the Feather River Trail to view the numerous diving ducks, herons, and egrets. Then we'll go to the [Purple Line Urban Winery](#) in downtown Oroville for some wine tasting and a special presentation by owner and winemaker, George Barber and his wife Kate. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and wear layered clothing for winter weather. A\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams*

## Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Fri 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Thursday with a different leader.** (See Wednesday's description.) A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Steve Emmons*

## Raptor Run thru Butte County

Fri 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. On this trip we will not just tick off birds, but we will study hunting behaviors, and plumage differences. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural differences between species and discuss why some raptors have special features. Why do some raptors and not others have feathered legs? By the end of the trip, everybody will know and appreciate more about each species.

**Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech*

## Eagle Roost Safari **NEW**

Fri 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be provided)*

**This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** (See Wednesday's description.) \$95 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## Family Owl Prowl

Fri 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center*

This family-oriented field trip offers a unique glimpse into the amazing nocturnal world of owls. The Prowl, a leisurely hike into Bidwell Park, will start and end at the **Chico Creek Nature Center**. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 1

*Field Trip Leader: Scott Torricelli*

## *Saturday, January 28*

## Field Trips

## Valley Wetlands & Wintering Waterbirds -- For the Serious Birder

Sat 6:30 am - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Travel the back roads of Chico to visit the Llano Seco Unit of the North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Thermalito Afterbay, and the Feather River. Also, we'll return to Chico via Cottonwood Road. Along with **Snow Geese**, we hope to see a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and many other wetland species. This trip is most appropriate for intermediate and advanced birders. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scopes, and a field guide. A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Jay Bogiatto*

## Raptor ID, Trapping, & Banding **NEW**

Sat 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Take your birding to another level! Join a team of biologists, who will capture and band raptors in the field. This field trip will include instruction on raptor identification and trapping methods. Once birds are captured we will discuss safe handling methods, provide information for identifying raptors by age and sex (when possible) and teach traditional methods used when banding raptors including collecting morphometric data and conducting health assessments. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.**

**This trip is also offered on Sunday.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd and Jeff P. Smith, Ph.D. and Scott Thomas*

## Refuge to Refuge -- Snow Geese Galore!

Sat 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Visit two premier Sacramento Valley wildlife refuges, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Sacramento NWR, and CA Dept. of Fish and Game Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. See huge flocks of **Snow Geese** and waterfowl along with cranes, ibis, and a variety of raptors. Dress in layers and bring a sack lunch. A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Skip Augur*

## Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Sat 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Situated on the west side of the upper Sacramento Valley, Black Butte Lake is surrounded by beautiful dark volcanic buttes. Come explore the backwaters and woodlands this lake has to offer and see Pied-billed Grebes, Clark's and Western Grebes, Belted Kingfisher, Bonaparte's Gulls, and goldeneyes. Stop along the roads and see Wild Turkeys, Mountain Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Lewis's Woodpeckers, Golden Eagles, and Bald Eagles winter in this area too. Bring a lunch and drink. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Wyatt Hersey and Charlie Cornell*

## Tehama Bird Trek

Sat 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Areas that will be visited on this exciting bird trek include always birdy Cone Grove Park bordering Antelope Creek, Payne's Creek Recreation Area and surrounding BLM lands, and if time allows, a side trip to the western side of Tehama County. Habitats include oak woodland, restored grasslands, and riparian. Locations may change depending on recent sightings and participant requests. Target birds for this trip are the Lewis's Woodpecker, lots of raptors, and possibly Greater Roadrunner. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars, and be prepared for any weather possibility. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: David Dahnke*

## **Sutter Buttes Hike -- State Park's Peace Valley**

Sat 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Explore California State Park's Peace Valley in the Sutter Buttes. It will be like stepping back in time as you learn about Peace Valley's natural and cultural history. We will visit a Native American site used for grinding acorns. As we traverse this incredible valley, we will learn the interesting geological processes that formed it.

**This is an undeveloped area and involves some moderate uphill hiking, so wear sturdy hiking boots.** Bring a sack lunch and beverage. **No early departures on this trip.** A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Tim Davis*

## **Sutter Buttes Hike -- State Park's Peace Valley & "House Hill"**

Sat 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Explore California State Park's Peace Valley in the Sutter Buttes. It will be like stepping back in time as you learn about Peace Valley's natural and cultural history. Our journey will include a climb to the top of "House Hill" where fantastic views of the valley and the surrounding buttes can be found. **This is an undeveloped area, and this is a strenuous hike over some steep terrain so wear sturdy hiking boots.** Bring a sack lunch and beverage. **No early departures on this trip.** A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

**This is an undeveloped area, and this is a strenuous hike over some steep terrain so wear sturdy hiking boots.** Bring a sack lunch and beverage. **No early departures on this trip.** A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Ranger Zack Chambers*

## **Tundra Swan Viewing -- District 10 (includes lunch)**

Sat 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Drive from Chico to Marysville and stop at District 10 where traditionally hundreds of large Tundra Swans can be seen. Swan viewing will be mainly from the sides of backcountry roads -- the walking will be very limited.

**We will stop at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Mathews who will offer us lunch and a presentation on the benefits of rice farming for wildlife.** Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. A\$32 - Y\$12

Level 1

*Field Trip Leaders: Charlie Mathews and Dale Whitmore*

## **Lassen Volcanic National Park Snowshoe Hike **NEW****

Sat 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Here is an opportunity to learn about the wildlife and birds at Lassen Volcanic National Park in winter! We will casually explore the park's beautiful Red Fir forest on snowshoes. **Participants must be 8 years or older and able to withstand moderate physical exertion at an elevation of 7,000 feet.** Snowshoes will be provided. No experience necessary! Dress warmly, wear boots, and bring lunch and water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Robert Cromwell and Todd Jesse*

## **Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch**

Sat 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Gridley McDonald's*

A three-mile gentle hillside walk will take us around the 100-year-old Dean Place Cattle Ranch. Along the way the Buttes' volcanic origins and some Native American artifacts will be revealed. Hopefully, we will see such gems as the Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Golden Eagle, and Ferruginous Hawk, along with the usual winter sparrows, and with luck, geese and swans flying high over the Buttes. Be sure to bring binoculars, lunch, water, and sturdy boots/shoes and hiking sticks, if you have them. **No early departures on this trip.** Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Laura Lush*

## **Birds & Trees of the Genetic Resource and Conservation Center**

Sat 8:15 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Join us for a walk through the Genetic Resource and Conservation Center in South Chico. Here you will find a lovely arboretum nature trail that runs next to the creek. Enjoy the 209-acre center with exotic trees and shrubs, some over 100 years old. Joseph will discuss identification, including how to identify trees out of leaf. Tree resources for birds will also be covered. With the large variety of tree species and the creek and its neighboring open space, many species of birds flock to the center. We hope to see Western Bluebird, Downy Woodpecker, and raptors to name a few. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Joseph O'Neil and John Meserve and Miguette Sansegundo*

## **Olive City Agriculture & Nature Center (includes lunch)**

Sat 8:15 am - 2:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Are you looking for an agricultural and birding experience? The [Olive City Agriculture & Nature Center](#), a 354-acre site near Corning, strives to illustrate the combined values of both agriculture and the natural environment. See orchard blocks that include varieties grown commercially in Tehama County, past and present. Explore the 275-acre nature preserve where over 100 bird species take advantage of restored wetlands, vernal pools, and uplands, and Burrowing Owls winter in artificial burrows. **Relax afterward with a delicious BBQ lunch prepared by Scotty Weston, Operations Manager, who will also be sharing information throughout the day.** Wear hiking boots. A\$37 - Y\$17 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Scotty Weston and Victor Paz and Ruth Paz*

## **Llano Seco Viewing Platform -- Dabbling, Diving & Soaring (Wheelchair)**

Sat 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento River NWR offers sensational views from an elevated viewing platform. This is an ideal spot for viewing a large number of geese and ducks in one location! Other often-seen species include Sandhill Cranes, raptors, herons, and egrets. This is definitely a birding hot spot and a good trip for the beginning birder. **This trip is also offered on Sunday.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Shelly Kirn*

## **Wings & Wine Tasting in Vina**

Sat 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Take a memorable trip to where California history was made and where assorted birds, monks, and a wine maker now reside. We'll explore the riparian and oak woodland habitats of the Sacramento River in search of resident and wintering birds such as woodpeckers, raptors, thrushes, sparrows, bluebirds, and more. Next, we'll visit the [Abbey of New Clairvaux](#) in nearby Vina, California, home to a community of Trappist monks that was founded in 1955. A discussion of the history of the property and its relation to the history of California, the story of its current residents, a tour of the under re-construction Twelfth Century Monastic Chapter House, and [wine tasting](#) will all be included. Tour and wine tasting fees included in price. Bring a lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$38 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Mauricio Schrader and Bill Smith and Jon Aull*

## **Birding & Brunch in Paradise**

Sat 8:45 am - 2:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Yes, here is an opportunity to see the birds of Paradise and enjoy a **sumptuous brunch** all in one trip. Follow Amy & Everett as you leisurely walk along the Historic Miocene Flume. The flume trail is gravel and there are no catwalks over the flume. Here we should see towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, and raptors flying above, while getting a close view of the effects of the drought on Lake Oroville. **Then we will travel up the ridge to enjoy a Luau Brunch at the Wulbern's beautiful home where we can overlook the valley and watch the activity at their bird feeders.** We will end the day at Kunkle Reservoir. Here we can expect to see ducks and Canada Geese on the water, and on an additional walk, we may have sightings of Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, resident hawks, and an assortment of other birds and wildlife. **This trip is also offered on Sunday morning with different leaders.** A\$37 - Y\$17 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Amy Darwin & Everett Ayers*

## **Bidwell Park - Bird & Ecological Diversity**

Sat 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Come explore the diverse habitats of Bidwell Park. We will learn about the factors that influence the vegetation

of Blue Oak, grassland, and riparian areas, and create a list of birds from each area and discuss the reasons for the diversity. We will also get a first-hand view of some of the restoration and management efforts in the Park. Participants should plan for wet weather, and hiking uneven terrain. Plan for a great morning out in the park, rain or shine! A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Shane Romain*

## **How Bird Language Relates to Wilderness Survival **NEW****

Sat 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Join Scott Grist on a unique journey through beautiful Upper Bidwell Park. He will be leading the group on a casual hike, a bird sit, and introductory lessons on bird language and how it relates to wilderness survival. To hunter/gatherers, knowing the language of the birds was an invaluable skill when it came to survival. This knowledge has been almost completely forgotten by our modern culture. Reconnecting to this awareness can open up a whole new world to the average birder who wants to go beyond watching and identification. All experience levels are welcome. Bringing a notebook and pen will be helpful. Also, bring a lunch and you may want to bring something to sit on in case the ground is wet. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Scott Grist*

## **Family Hike at Verbena Fields**

Sat 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

In the heart of Chico, a wildflower meadow overlooks a creek meandering past willows and cottonwoods, while overhead a Red-shouldered Hawk surveys the ground for its next meal. If you are thinking Bidwell Park, think again. Lesser-known Verbena Fields is a 21-acre open space that is an active restoration site along Lindo Channel where native plants and animals are making a comeback. Join us for a lighthearted, activity-filled exploration of this urban gem. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Heidi Ortiz*

## **Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery**

Sat 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning with different leaders.** (See Wednesday's description.) A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster*

## **Cranes, Raptors, & Waterfowl **NEW****

Sat 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

See hundreds of magnificent Sandhill Cranes, flying winter raptors of open grasslands, and thousands of ducks, geese and swans as you visit new locations to view them. We will take to the back roads of Chico and beyond, getting up close and personal to see the cranes dance and eagles, hawks, and falcons soar! Then we'll visit the Cole Farm where a beautiful marsh and wetlands surround their property and thousands of waterfowl feel quite at home. Please bring lunch, snacks, water, binoculars, and a scope if you have one, and wear layered clothing for winter wear. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Ian Gledhill and Pamela Waldsmith*

## **Raptor Run**

Sat 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Wednesday with Gary Nielsen.** (See Wednesday's description.) A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Gary Nielsen*

## **Tundra Swan Viewing -- District 10**

Sat 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Drive from Chico to Marysville and stop at District 10 where traditionally hundreds of large Tundra Swans can be seen. Swan viewing will be mainly from the sides of backcountry roads -- the walking will be very limited. The group will scout for a wide variety of water birds, from ducks, egrets and ibis to less seen Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. This area is one of the premier swan viewing sites in California. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 1

*Field Trip Leader: Dale Whitmore*

## **Waterfowl Photography at Colusa NWR **NEW****

Sat 12:45 pm - 5:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will travel to Colusa NWR to photograph waterfowl from the viewing platform. This is where Jeff has spent many hours the last couple of winters capturing fantastic photos of the Central Valley's waterfowl, especially the **Snow and Ross's Geese**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, wigeon, and many other options as well. Be prepared for the weather and bring your big lenses with a tripod. 300mm and longer is best for this field trip. Jeff will share tips on site and answer any and all questions as the birds abound and the sun sets. There will be a chance to lie in the dirt. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 1

*Field Trip Leader: Jeffrey Rich, Wildlife Photographer*

## **Eagle Roost Safari **NEW****

Sat 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be provided)*

**This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** (See Wednesday's description.) \$95 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## ***Sunday, January 29***

### **Field Trips**

#### **Understanding Bird Language**

Sun 7:00 am - 11:30 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Bird Language is an ancient discipline, perfected by native people the world over. The birds around us have a deeply varied communication system which our ancestors understood and which we too can understand with practice. This field workshop will take a different angle on birding by looking at how to understand the vocalizations of birds and how they relate to food, predators, and other elements of the ecosystem. Wyatt will begin with a short introduction of this topic. Then participants will choose a spot on the landscape to sit and observe. We will then come together and make a large map with all the observations the group collects and see if we can weave a picture of what the birds are telling us. **ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE WELCOME!!** You do not need to know the calls of all the birds to get a lot out of this field workshop. Please bring a chair and a snack to share during the mapping process, and be sure to be prepared for whatever the weather will throw us. There is no such thing as bad weather, only poor preparedness. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 1

*Field Trip Leader: Wyatt Hersey*

#### **Raptor ID, Trapping, & Banding **NEW****

Sun 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Saturday.** (See Saturday's description.) A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd and Jeff P. Smith, Ph.D. and Scott Thomas*

#### **Marathon Big Day Birding in Tehama County **NEW****

Sun 7:00 am - 6:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Get ready for a full day of birding in Tehama County. We will hit Black Butte Lake (to look for gulls, grebes, diving ducks, shorebirds), head into the foothills for chaparral species (Wrentit, California Thrasher), and hit Dog Island Park just north of Red Bluff for wintering passerines. We'll also bird Cone Grove Park, and the grasslands along Foothill and Lassen Roads for a chance at Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcon, and maybe Mountain Bluebirds! If time allows, we'll try to head into the hills to get some montane species. **Bring lunch, water, and binoculars and be prepared to eat in the vehicles while driving to locations. Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. No early departures on this trip.** A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 4

*Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster*

#### **North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Birds & Waterfalls**

Sun 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This all day 10 mile hike (Level 4, see descriptions) will circumnavigate the NTMER (Table Mountain) plateau via the numerous waterfalls found in the area. We will bird while hiking, hoping to see raptors, Horned Lark, oak woodland species, and explore some geologic and historic sites. **This is an all-day hiking trip over uneven terrain, which includes some rock scrambling and small stream crossings.** Expect muddy boots. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Phil Johnson*

## **Beginning Birding by Ear**

Sun 7:45 am - 11:00 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The skill of identifying birds by their vocalizations adds a wonderful new level of enjoyment to any outdoor outing. Join avid ear-birder Mauricio Schrader for a morning of listening to and learning some audio clues for identifying bird songs and calls in the field. Some listening and recording equipment used in Greg Weddig's **Soundscapes** workshop will be along on this trip. **Participants may wish to take the Soundscapes of California Workshop on Saturday at 9am at the Chico Masonic Family Center that compliments this field trip.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Mauricio Schrader and Greg Weddig and Dan Dugan and Sharon Perry*

## **The Birds of Willow Bend**

Sun 7:45 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Journey into Willow Bend, a 200-acre private property along the Sacramento River in Colusa County. This is a rare opportunity to access this property, which is limited to guided trips. Chico-based River Partners owns the property, which has been the site of native grass restoration. The property has also received funding for an innovative floodplain reconnection project to provide rearing habitat for juvenile salmon. We'll hike the property, enjoy the river, and see some great birds. Some past sightings have included Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Barrow's Goldeneye, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and White-throated Sparrow. Bring snacks, water and binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Michael Rogner*

## **Birds & Trees of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve**

Sun 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will explore the native trees, shrubs, and birds of Butte Creek. Butte Creek Canyon is stunning with its Tuscan Volcanic Formations. This is a 3-4 mile intermediate hike along the creek (and over some logs) down to the pond. Last year we enjoyed Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Ducks, goldeneye, Great Horned Owl, and assorted warblers. We also had many goose and duck fly-overs. Otters and beavers may also be seen. Wear sturdy shoes/boots and bring water, and snacks. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Joseph O'Neil and Andy Tomaselli and Jon Aull*

## **Rio Vista, Woodson Bridge, & Olive Tour**

Sun 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Winter birds, the river, and olives! What a combination to experience and only at the Snow Goose Festival. First, join Dave as he takes you to the Rio Vista Unit of Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area to search for the winter birds that take advantage of these healthy habitat areas along the Sacramento River. You'll hike a 2-mile flat trail through the Rio Vista Unit in riparian woodland and stroll through towering oaks, sycamores, and cottonwoods at the Woodson Bridge SRA. These places are a winter haven to Bald Eagles, woodpeckers, thrushes, sparrows, wrens, finches, and owls. **Then after your morning of birding, take the short trip into Corning to the [Lucero Olive Oil's](#) tasting room. Once there you will be given a mill tour and have the opportunity to taste several of their award-winning olive oils and their unique olive oil ice cream sundae.** Wear good walking/hiking shoes, and bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$28 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Dave Tinker and David O'Keefe*

## Sutter Buttes Hike -- Mid-Mountain

Sun 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Gridley McDonald's*

On this 5-mile hike into the Sutter Buttes, we'll visit secluded locations revealing the Buttes' geologic formation, Native American presence, old pioneer home sites, and ecology typical of California's past. This hike is moderately brisk. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, and bring lunch and water. **No early departures on this trip.** Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt*

## Sutter Buttes Hike -- Summit Ascent

Sun 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Gridley McDonald's*

This hike traverses essentially the same terrain as the Mid-Mountain Hike but adds an additional half-mile 1000 ft. elevation gain. The last half-mile is quite strenuous. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, and bring lunch and water. **No early departures on this trip.** Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

*Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt*

## Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Sun 8:15 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is one of the premier winter birding areas in Northern Sacramento Valley. With its varied habitats, flat hiking trails, viewing hides, and auto loop, viewing the abundant waterfowl and **Snow Geese** will be spectacular! We will also be looking for wintering raptors, shorebirds, and gulls. We will travel along the 3-mile auto loop and stop at various spots with the breathtaking Sutter Buttes in view. We will end with a walk to the viewing platform to scope the flooded habitat. Target birds will include Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Wigeon, Black-necked Stilt, and Long-billed Curlew to name a few, and we might be just lucky enough to see a Mountain Bluebird. Please bring your binoculars, a lunch, and plenty of water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Kate Howard and Kyle Marsh*

## **Llano Seco Viewing Platform -- Dabbling, Diving & Soaring (Wheelchair)**

Sun 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Saturday.** (See Saturday's description.) A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Shelly Kirn*

## **Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail**

Sun 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Thursday morning with different leaders.** (See Thursday's description.) A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Charlie Cornell*

## **Birding & Brunch in Paradise**

Sun 8:45 am - 2:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Saturday morning with different leaders.** (See Saturday's description.) A\$37 - Y\$17 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Maureen Morales*

## **Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery**

Sun 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This trip is also offered on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning with different leaders.** (See Wednesday's description.) A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Lisa Winslow and Diego Bustamante*

## **Rancho Esquon**

Sun 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Just a short drive outside Durham, along the roadways bordering [Rancho Esquon](#), multitudes of **Snow Geese**, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes can usually be seen right from your vehicle! Bald Eagles are occasionally spotted perched in the snags along the agricultural wetlands. Upon arrival at Rancho Esquon, we will visit the wildlife bunkhouse and receive a brief orientation about the diverse undertakings of this complex rice ranch. We will then head out to visit the 1,000-acre restored wetland area, which offers views of high concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, and varied wildlife. **This trip is also offered on Thursday with different leaders.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Shane Romain*

## Wing-It to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Sun 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The "winging-it" part of this trip is where the fun starts! We'll veer off the beaten path as we bird along our way to the refuge. At the refuge we'll view the dioramas and pick-up a wildlife checklist. Then we are off to a leisurely adventure around the auto tour loop to possibly see thousands of birds. You can expect to see **Snow Geese**, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, wigeon, raptors, and possibly a Bald Eagle. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Michael Denega*

## Eagle Roost Safari **NEW**

Sun 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be provided)*

**This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** (See Wednesday's description.) \$95 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## *Thursday, January 26* **Presentations/Workshops**

### **Sutter Buttes Painting Class **NEW****

Thu 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Meet at Studio 561, 561 E Lindo Ave, Chico*

A beginner painting level, this palette knife piece is both fun and adventuresome. Paint the favorite feeding grounds of the commuting birds at [Studio 561](#). Refreshments will be provided. All ages welcome. Fee includes materials. \$45 *Presenter: Christine Mac Shane*

## *Friday, January 27* **Presentations/Workshops**

### **Basic Nature & Wildlife Photography Workshop**

Fri 8:30 am - 11:00 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This workshop is an introduction to nature and wildlife photography, particularly bird photography. Topics will include discussions on exposure, lighting, composition, and the ethics of nature photography. Some equipment will be on display including film and digital cameras, photography blinds, camera support devices, flash projection setups, and remote control units. **This workshop compliments a free Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge photography tour offered on Sunday morning. To sign up for this tour, contact the Sacramento NWR at (530) 934-2801 or [sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov](mailto:sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov).** A\$15 - Y\$8 *Presenter: Steve Emmons*

*Emmons*

## Canada Goose Painting Class **NEW**

Fri 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Studio 561, 561 E Lindo Ave, Chico*

A beginner/intermediate painting class in acrylics of a Canada Goose among the reeds done at [Studio 561](#). Refreshments will be provided. Fee includes materials. \$45 *Presenter: Christine Mac Shane*

## Bird Carving Seminar for Beginners

Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Join master carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association for a five hour carving seminar. All of the necessary materials, including a study guide and the best knives on the market, will be provided. Short lectures with lots of hands-on carving will enable you to complete a Dunlin. Topics include where to get your supplies, how to use reference material, wood selection, and how to use hand tools and power tools. This workshop's fee includes a one-year membership in the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. **Must be fifteen years or older.** \$35 *Presenters: Jim Burcio and Bob Solari and Bob Joseph*

## *Saturday, January 28*

## **Presentations/Workshops**

### **Soundscapes of California**

Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Take a tour of California's fascinating soundscapes. We will enjoy a selection of surround-sound recordings from California's parks and wildlife preserves. A quick survey of nature recording equipment and brief ear training exercises will be given. The relatively new concept of "soundscape" describes an immersive appreciation of nature. **Participants may wish to take the field trip that compliments this workshop, Beginning Birding by Ear on Sunday at 7:45 am.** A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenters: Dan Dugan and Greg Weddig and Sharon Perry*

### **Water Dancers -- Western & Clark's Grebes**

Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**Western and Clark's Grebes** are colonial water birds that nest on floating mounds of vegetation and have elaborate courtship rituals including a "rushing" display where pairs dance across the water together. Plumas Audubon has been monitoring grebes breeding at four lakes in northeastern California, Lake Almanor, Lake Davis and Antelope Lake, for the last seven years. David will discuss the study's results and Audubon's efforts to help these unique water birds. A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: David Arsenault*

## Searching for Gold Spot: The Wild after Wildfire **NEW**

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Forests that have experienced fire are vibrant, dazzling, and full of life. While searching for the rare **Black-backed Woodpeckers**, which rely on these burned forests, biologists encounter a plethora of other wildlife such as deer, black bears, bobcats, sapsuckers, bluebirds, wrens, and raptors, including nesting **Northern Goshawks** and **Spotted Owls** and their chicks. The **Black-backed Woodpeckers** have recently been petitioned for special status species listing (threatened or endangered). Come enjoy this film's short journey of wonder and discovery. A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Maya Khosla*

## Western Bluebird Painting Class **NEW**

Sat 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Studio 561, 561 E Lindo Ave, Chico*

You will be creating a beautiful painting of a Western Bluebird, one of our more colorful area birds, on a 12x12 canvas. No experience necessary as Julee will walk you through simple step-by-step and easy to follow instructions. All materials provided. Just bring your creative self to [Studio 561](#) and have fun! Youth, age 12 to 17, are welcome. \$45 *Presenter: Julee Spohn*

## Less Lawn, More Wildlife - Gardens as Habitat

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Lawns are wonderful for children to play on, dogs to run on, and the expanse of green is certainly appreciated in the heat of the summer. Lawns, however, use large quantities of water and fertilizer, need mowing, and provide little to no habitat for insects and birds. In this workshop I will discuss the nuts and bolts of converting a lawn into a wildlife friendly garden for pollinators and birds. Methods of eliminating lawns - irrigation conversion - design considerations - and plant choices will be covered. We will also talk about Altacal's Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program. A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John Whittlesey*

## The Photography of Ron Sanford

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Professional photographer, Ron Sanford, will share his new-found excitement for the technological advances in photography, including time-lapse photography, through this presentation of his experience filming in the far north during his 2016 trip to Alaska and also from his Sierra deck here in California. His subjects will include the Alaska Range and Mount Denali and the Milky Way Galaxy. Ron's presentation is always inspiring! A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Ron & Nancy Sanford*

## The History and Mystery of the Sutter Buttes

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Here's an opportunity for glimpses into the mysterious Sutter Buttes. Travel through the Buttes without ever leaving your chair as you enjoy this fascinating slide presentation on the many facets and wonders of the remarkable landscape that makes up the Sutter Buttes, which will include a historical perspective.. A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Mike Hubbartt*

## **The Life of the Rough-legged Hawk NEW**

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Since 2014, Jeff Kidd and his associates have collected approximately 100,000 GPS locations from fledgling and adult Rough-legged Hawks that were fitted with satellite and cellular transmitters. Hawks were trapped and released with transmitters on various summer and winter grounds throughout North America. During this presentation, we will discuss the biology, ecology, status, conservation, and annual movements of Rough-legged hawks. Maps will be provided to show fall and spring migration routes and movement data for both winter and summer grounds. Many other aspects of the life of these amazing hawks will also be discussed. A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenters: Jeff Kidd and Jeff P. Smith, Ph.D.*

## ***Sunday, January 29***

## **Presentations/Workshops**

### **Chico Backyard Birds**

Sun 10:00 am - 11:30 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

I never saw a bird like that in my backyard before, is it rare? What happened to that nice singer that spent most of the spring in my yard? I swear I saw a canary in my yard! Could it have escaped from a cage? Join Mac, who will give you tips on identifying some of Northern California's birds that visit your backyard and explain why many of them seem to seasonally disappear. In addition, he will make suggestions regarding reference material to help you become a better backyard "birder." A\$8 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John "Mac" McCormick*