

19th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

January 24-28, 2018

Wednesday, January 24 – Field Trips

Soils, Landforms, & Vegetation of Bidwell Park

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\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Andrew Conlin and Birder, John Seid

Wings & Olive Tasting in Corning **NEW**

Wed 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Get a taste of what Corning has to offer! First, explore [Olive City Agriculture & Nature Center](#), a 275-acre nature sanctuary in Corning where over 100 bird species take advantage of restored wetlands, vernal pools, and uplands, and Burrowing Owls winter in artificial burrows. Next, we'll take a short drive over to [Corning Olive Oil Company](#) where we'll take a tour of the facility, see olives being pressed, and do some tasting of the finished product. Olive oil and other products will be available for sale. Bring your binoculars and wear hiking boots. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

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

Up the Creek with a Pair of Binoculars

Wed 9:00 am - 2:00 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 diverse oak woodland/chaparral/meadows of the upper canyon, with some spectacular scenery. If road conditions permit, we will drive the short but steep road to the creek. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Jon Aull and Charlie Cornell

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge & Vicinity **NEW**

Wed 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here's a guided trip that offers spectacular opportunities to see the wintering waterfowl along the Pacific

Flyway! The Colusa NWR has a three-mile auto tour loop and an observation deck that offers great viewing and photography, with huge numbers of White-fronted, Ross's, and **Snow Geese**, along with ducks such as Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler. We may also see grebes, herons, egrets, bitterns, shorebirds, and other waterbirds including Soras and Wilson's Snipe. There's also a roost site here with 150 - 200 Black-crowned Night-Herons. Then we'll view waterfowl from the road at Delevan NWR and stop at some other local sites, depending on where the birds are, including the Vermilion Flycatcher if it comes back to the Maxwell Cemetery this winter. Bring water, binoculars, and a lunch. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Joyce Bond and Carol Anderson

Birding, History, & Wine Tasting in Durham NEW

Wed 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Come to Durham and see for yourself its birds and wines, back roads and vines, and the founding family of the times. The adventure starts at the Llano Seco Viewing Platform to see waterfowl and cranes. Then we'll drive the back roads of Durham where orchards and flooded rice fields support a wide variety of bird species. Our lunch stop will be at Durham Community Park where Yellow-billed Magpies are often found! After lunch we'll stop at the Durham Cemetery, where you'll find out the interesting history of the founding family, the Durhams, and California pioneer Sam Neal. The adjoining [Butte Creek Country Club](#), a golf course, will offer an opportunity for more birding. Then to finish off the day we'll stop at the [Nesseré Vineyards](#) for some wine tasting and bird watching. Tasting fee included in price. Bring lunch, water, and dress warmly with appropriate foot wear. A\$35 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Cris Cline and Bill Smith

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Wed 12:00 pm - 4:30 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, which now has limited access to the public. 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Lorraine Smith

Raptor Run

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 - 7:00 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 in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. **This trip is also offered on Friday with a different leader. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2**

Field Trip Leader: Fred Thomas

Eagle Roost Safari

Wed 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

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. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. 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: Lindsay Wood and Henry Lomeli

Thursday, January 25 – Field Trips

Bird Photography at Rancho Esquon Workshop/Field Trip

Thu 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

Marathon Big Day Birding in Plumas County NEW

Thu 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This is a first-time Snow Goose Festival offering! Plumas County is often visited in summer but lightly birded in winter. We will start by birding the Feather River Canyon, where we should find granite-loving Rock and Canyon Wrens, dippers, mergansers and Bald Eagles, We'll loop through Indian Valley looking for open country and grassland birds and raptors. After lunch we will spend the afternoon birding Lake Almanor, which often hosts thousands of waterfowl in winter. Surrounding Lake Almanor is a variety of montane species. Dress in layers and prepare for possible cold and wet. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. **Carpooling is mandatory to maintain a four vehicle limit.** A\$35 Level 4

Field Trip Leader: Scott Huber

Upper Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail

Thu 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park, a favorite birding trail with locals, offers a surprisingly rich variety of birds all year. The natural habitat along Big Chico Creek offers excellent viewing opportunities of many creek-side and oak woodland bird species, and it has some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. We will hike about 4 miles round-trip along the creek starting at Horseshoe Lake. Sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit. Many other species are possible, like Phainopepla, 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 Leader: Carrie Wendt

Winter Raptors with Jon L. Dunn

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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech and Jon L. Dunn

(Continued)

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.** If time permits and for those wishing to do so, lunch will be followed by a short drive west to the beautiful Upper Stony Creek area for additional bird sighting opportunities. [Divide Ranch's](#) 100% Grass-Fed beef will be available for sale, so bring your ice chests! A\$38 - Y\$18 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Mike and Kathy Landini and Joyce Bond and Pamela Waldsmith

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Thu 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 Leader: Michelle Ocken

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\$14 - Y\$8 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr

Foothill Bird Trek **NEW**

Thu 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Lime Saddle trail, historic Miocene Flume, and Native American grinding rocks site are part of this birding adventure in the foothills above Chico. We will be traversing both forest and riparian areas with likely sightings of towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, and raptors. Last year a Phainopepla was sighted. Dress in layers and bring water and binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Lorraine Smith

Delevan NWR & Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Thu 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Delevan NWR is one of 15 National Wildlife Refuge units along the Interstate 5 corridor and home to large numbers of Pacific Flyway's wintering waterfowl and host to hundreds of shorebirds, herons, egrets and raptors. Join Harry, author of Freeway Birding, as he guides you into the heart of one of his favorite "freeway" birding areas. Then we'll travel to Sacramento NWR to witness thousands of birds in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Please bring 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 Leader: Harry Fuller

Eagle Roost Safari

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

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. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. 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: Lindsay Wood and Henry Lomeli

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 [Fare Resources](#)) 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. **No early departures on this trip.** 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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Owl Monitoring Team

Winter Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Thu 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Julie Woodruff and Owl Monitoring Team

Thursday, January 25 – Presentations/Workshops

"Heron in Flight" Painting Class **NEW**

Thu 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Meet at Studio 561, 561 E Lindo Ave, Chico

Join us for an introductory level painting experience at [The Studio 561](#) as we paint the graceful "Heron in Flight." Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring appetizers and beverage as desired. All materials provided for this step-by-step, family-friendly painting class. All ages welcome. \$45 *Presenter:*

Christine Mac Shane

(Continued)

Friday, January 26 – Field Trips

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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Wilbur Road & the Afterbay NEW

Fri 7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Wilbur Road in Thermalito offers a great variety of birding habitats, which makes it the ideal place for winter birding. The birds found here at this time of year range from waterbirds to raptors. We will start on the south end for a 1-mile walk to various parts of the Thermalito Afterbay shoreline, and then we'll head north through grasslands and various access points of the Afterbay. The trip ends in the wide-open range land that is home to a wide variety of raptors. Bring a lunch and hiking shoes. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Phil Johnson

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 Leaders: Victor Paz and Ruth Paz

Lake Oroville Pontoon Boat Tour NEW

Fri 7:45 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join us on a leisurely cruise on the world renowned Lake Oroville departing from the [Lake Oroville Marina](#). Start your morning with hot coffee, spiced apple cider, tea, and assorted rolls. You'll be aboard a deluxe, double-decker, 44-ft patio pontoon boat with upholstered seating, hot water, sink, and restroom. We'll be exploring the west branch, coves, and the main body of the lake in search of waterfowl and elusive raptors like

Osprey, Bald and Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. We'll be stopping to have a buffet lunch of sandwiches and drinks as we float on the quiet waters. Lake Oroville's water level is in constant flux and may be down 200 vertical feet from its nearly 700 foot depth in the winter months. Please contact trip leader, Dave Garcia, for information on clothing to wear on this winter boat trip at (530) 218-5133 or daggerdave51@gmail.com. A\$55 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Dave Garcia and Craig Roth

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 with Jon L. Dunn

Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley Subway

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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Peter Sands and Jon L. Dunn

Yana Trail

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 Leaders: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey

Rancho Esquon

Fri 8:15 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 Gysin

Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Fri 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 Thursday.** A\$14 - Y\$8 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Fri 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Wildlife, wintering waterfowl, and nature photography are exceptional at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, especially along the three-mile gravel auto tour, one-mile walking trail, and at the observation deck. With over 4500 acres of wetlands, seasonal marshes, and uplands, the refuge supports wintering populations of more than 200,000 ducks and 75,000 geese. 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. We will hike the scenic Dye Creek Canyon 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 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Jesse Klingler and Donald Beers

(Continued)

Richvale Birds & Rice Growers

Fri 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Richvale is not only rich in rice farming history but also rich in wintering waterfowl on the flooded rice fields. Butte County Rice Growers Association, a century old cooperative, will host a tour of their facility and surrounding rice fields. Come learn how the production of rice benefits not only people but also 235 species of wildlife. Visible from the gravel roads, we'll see **Snow Geese**, Tundra Swans, ducks, egrets, herons, and hopefully a Bald Eagle and other raptors. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Jan Martinez

Birds & Wine with Purple Line

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. Any tasting fees included in price. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and wear layered clothing for winter weather.

A\$35 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams

Sandhill Cranes & Winter Raptors

Fri 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

See hundreds of magnificent Sandhill Cranes and the winter raptors of open grasslands as you visit the hottest locations to view them. You will take to the back roads of Chico and beyond to get up close and personal to see the cranes dance and eagles, hawks, and falcons soar! Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, and a scope (if you have one), and wear layered clothing for winter wear. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Harry Fuller

Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Fri 12:30 pm - 7:00 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 in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday with a different leader.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Steve Emmons

(Continued)

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 Leaders: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech and Gary Nielsen

Intermediate Bird Photography Workshop/Field Trip **NEW**

Fri 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This workshop is being presented by professional nature and wildlife photographer Kirby Flanagan. It's designed for people that want to take their bird photography to the next level. To gain the most from this workshop, you should understand the basics of shutter speed, ISO and f-stop and how to control each of them on your camera. Some previous experience with bird photography will be helpful. We'll spend our time discussing and demonstrating composition, gesture, focusing, lighting, tripods and camera gear. Then we'll go out in the field and put your new knowledge to practical use. Bring your DSLR and longest lens for the field portion. Bring your camera manual too. Dress yourself and your gear for the weather. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Kirby Flanagan

Eagle Roost Safari

Fri 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

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. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. 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: Lindsay Wood and Henry Lomeli

(Continued)

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

Friday, January 26 – 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 digital cameras, camera support devices, flash projection setups, and remote control units. A\$18 - Y\$8 *Presenter: Steve Emmons*

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 Mourning Dove. 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*

"Owl" Painting Class **NEW**

Fri 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Meet at Studio 561, 561 E Lindo Ave, Chico

We will be painting an "Owl" with mixed media and acrylic paint at [The Studio 561](#). This is a fun beginner level painting with step-by-step instruction. Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring appetizers and beverage as desired. All materials provided for this family-friendly painting class. All ages welcome. \$45 *Presenter: Christine Mac Shane*

(Continued)

Saturday, January 27 – 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

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\$30 - Y\$15 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd 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, Loggerhead Shrike, Mountain Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Lewis's Woodpeckers, Golden Eagles, and Bald Eagles winter in this area too. We'll take a short hike on the Big Oak Trail. Bring a lunch and drink. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey

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

Field Trip Leader: Noel Lopez

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

Sat 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here is an opportunity to enjoy Lassen's stunning winter landscape while learning about seasonal wildlife adaptations, including how birds either migrate or tolerate the snowy forest. Due to the presence of snow and the time of day, there are few bird sightings on this hike. 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: Todd Jesse

(Continued)

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch

Sat 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley Subway

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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Laura Lush

Birds & Trees of the Chico Seed Orchard

Sat 8:15 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join us for a walk through the Chico Seed Orchard 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

Vina Plains to Pine Creek & the River

Sat 8:15 am - 12:15 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Visit The Nature Conservancy's Vina Plains Preserve and observe winter plants and animals of unique vernal pool ecosystems. Learn why vernal pool landscapes are so important to migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Next, travel to the Pine Creek Unit of Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge to see a riparian habitat restoration project and learn why it is critical for the survival of Chinook Salmon, migratory songbirds, and endangered species. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Joe Silveira and Dawit Zeleke

Llano Seco Viewing Platform with Jon L. Dunn (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 led by Shelly Kirn.** A\$30 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Shelly Kirn and Jon L. Dunn

(Continued)

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: Jon Aull and Bill Smith

Winter Birding in the Foothills **NEW**

Sat 8:45 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Bird the hotspots in one of the least explored areas in our region! You'll hike along the historic Miocene Flume and around Lake Oroville's Parish Cove. The flume trail is gravel with no catwalks, although there are some elevation changes on the trail. Here we should see towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, raptors flying above, and maybe the striking Phainopepla and the Rock Wren. Then we'll end the day at Kunkle Reservoir where we can expect to see ducks and Canada Geese on the water; sightings of Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, resident hawks; and an assortment of other birds and wildlife. Bring a sack lunch and water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Amy Darwin & Everett Ayers

Explore the Wild Side of Butte Creek **NEW**

Sat 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The riparian woodland and areas of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve are biological hot-spots! We will explore this dynamic 93-acre preserve, and likely witness a variety of wildlife and birds. See how the creek and canyon setting shapes ecological conditions and influences habitat for wildlife and special status species, such as Chinook salmon and Bald Eagles. Participants should plan for full participation and hiking rain or shine on relatively flat but uneven terrain. Bring a lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Dan Efsseff

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 Gysin

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Sat 11:30 am - 4:00 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, which now has limited access to the public. 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Sunday with different leaders.**

A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Raptor Run

Sat 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 Wednesday with Gary Nielsen.** 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

Youth Nature Photography Field Trip

Sat 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join Wildlife Refuge Manager Steve Emmons as we travel to the Llano Seco Viewing Platform to photograph the refuge. This trip is intended for youths between 9 and 17 years of age. During the field trip, we will discuss different types of light and how to compose good photographs, and, of course, we will practice photographing some of the birds and other subjects found near the viewing platform. We will also make use of stuffed mounts as part of the learning process. **You will need to bring your own camera. Participants must be accompanied**

by a parent or guardian. There is no charge for the adult. Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Steve Emmons

Eagle Roost Safari

Sat 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

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. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. 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: Lindsay Wood and Henry Lomeli

Saturday, January 27 – Presentations/Workshops

Less Lawn, More Wildlife - Gardens as Habitat

Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am

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. What we do in our gardens can make a difference in supporting populations of birds and insects. 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. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John Whittlesey*

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\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenters: Dan Dugan and Greg Weddig and Sharon Perry*

Alaska, Land of Many Dreams NEW

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Go beyond the cruise experience and get a taste of the adventures that are possible in Alaska. After spending the 2016 summer traveling in his pickup and trailer, Kirby Flanagan, a professional wildlife and landscape photographer, will share his photos and experiences from there. Some of the highlights are Homer, Kachemak Bay, Katmai, Seward, Denali, Haines and Hyder and two previous visits, which were trips to Glacier Bay and the bear refuges at Anan Creek and Pack Creek. He'll also discuss how to plan your trip, getting there, traveling around the state, and how to best spend your time and money. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Kirby Flanagan*

The Surprising Benefits of Snag Forests - Nature's Nurseries NEW

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Snag forests are the most threatened forest type in the American west. 85 native bird species, 45 mammal species, amphibians, reptiles, and nearly all fish – are “snag-dependent” meaning they must have snags for nesting, shelter and food storage. Without snags, wildlife species can experience local and regional extinction. Discover more about why snag forests are among the most valuable, rare and threatened bird habitats in America, how to protect snag forests, and how to encourage and manage snags for wildlife benefits in your own landscape. This presentation will include an introduction to this subject; the film, "Searching for Gold Spot - the Wild After Wildfire;" and a time for your questions. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Christy Sherr*

Celebrating Cranes NEW

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Want to know all about the tallest bird in California? It's the Sandhill Crane, which both breeds and overwinters here. We will explore this ancient and elegant bird's life and culture. How do they make a living and communicate with one another? Where do our winter cranes come from? Come find out! Photo above by Steve Emmons. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Harry Fuller*

The Photography of Ron & Nancy Sanford

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This year Ron & Nancy want to show and tell their visual experiences from 1978 thru 2017 via continually changing their niche. Forty years ago Ron was a wannabe magazine photographer, and he and his wife are still at it, but times have changed! For example, Time Magazine just recruited a Brazilian woman to do a 33-page feature, plus cover, and she used an iPhone! Come see some of the Sanford's extraordinary photographs taken over the last four decades. Would you rather be good or lucky? In this creative business one must decide. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Ron & Nancy Sanford*

The History & 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\$10 - Y\$5

Presenter: Mike Hubbartt

The Life of the Rough-legged Hawk

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Since 2014, Jeff Kidd and his associates have collected approximately 150,000 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.

Picture above taken by Alex Paiement. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Jeff Kidd*

Sunday, January 28 – Field Trips

Raptor ID, Trapping, & Banding

Sun 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 Saturday. A\$30 - Y\$15 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd and Scott Thomas

Coast Range Foothills via Newville Road **NEW**

Sun 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Interesting geology, an old cemetery, and amazing pastoral views are what are in store for you when we explore the Newville area in the Coast Range Foothills. Our first stop will be at the Black Butte Lake overlook to search for waterfowl, and then we'll continue on Newville Road into the foothills. The oak savanna and open grasslands are excellent places for all raptors, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Mountain Bluebird. We will also take a short hike in the chaparral foothills to enjoy the views and look for Mountain Quail, and California Thrasher.

Wear hiking shoes and bring water, lunch, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

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 Scott Huber 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: Scott Huber and Greg Weddig and Dan Dugan and Sharon Perry

Birds, River & Habitat Restoration NEW

Sun 7:45 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This a rare opportunity to journey into multiple river restoration sites on over 2,000 acres along the Sacramento River in Glenn County. These properties are being managed by multiple agencies to provide wildlife habitat, flood protection, and other benefits to the surrounding communities. We will hike the properties, enjoy the river, and see some great birds. Some past sightings have included Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Barrow's Goldeneye, 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: Jon Aull and Joseph O'Neil and John Meserve and Miguette Sansegundo

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Mid-Mountain

Sun 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley Subway

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 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 Subway

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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt

Marathon Big Day Birding in Colusa County

Sun 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Mary and Matt will be leading a fast-paced, non-stop, wide-ranging adventure throughout Colusa County. This county is known for its wetlands and rice fields where we'll expect to see a wide variety of waterfowl including swans, geese, ducks, wading birds, shorebirds, and rails. In the remote and serene Bear Valley and Sites Valley, we'll watch for Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks and grassland species. Expect to see 60-80 or more species on this fun, fast-paced adventure! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. We will be eating on the run (or in the car) since we all want to see as many birds as possible! **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. No early departures on this trip.** A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Gray Lodge & Cordi Winery

Sun 8:15 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

Llano Seco Viewing Platform (Wheelchair)

Sun 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 Saturday led by Shelly Kirn and Jon L. Dunn.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Shelly Kirn

Upper Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail

Sun 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park, a favorite birding trail with locals, offers a surprisingly rich variety of birds all year. The natural habitat along Big Chico Creek offers excellent viewing opportunities of many creek-side and oak woodland bird species, and it has some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. We will hike about 4 miles round-trip along the creek starting at Horseshoe Lake. Sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit. Many other species are possible, like Phainopepla, 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 Thursday morning with a different leader.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Charlie Cornell

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

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Sun 9:00 am - 1:30 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, which now has limited access to the public. 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Saturday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Lisa Winslow and Diego Bustamante

Wing-It to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 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\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Michael Denega

Eagle Roost Safari

Sun 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

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. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. 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: Lindsay Wood and Henry Lomeli

Sunday, January 28 – Presentations/Workshops

The Great Gray Owl

Sun 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Great Gray Owls are one of the most mysterious and sought-after bird residents of California, Oregon, and Washington. Even though it is the tallest owl in North America, and notoriously approachable by humans, the Great Gray is hard to find. Biologists surveying for other species may happen accidentally on the owl, but finding it intentionally isn't easy due to its nocturnal habits, excellent camouflage, and silent flight. Despite relatively high breeding concentrations in the Willowa Mountains and southern Cascades of Oregon, Great Grays are of conservation concern to wildlife managers in Oregon due to possible declines in the overall population and loss of habitat. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Harry Fuller*

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\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John "Mac" McCormick*

Freeway Birding - San Francisco to Seattle

Sun 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Harry Fuller will discuss his recently released book, *Freeway Birding*, aimed at the traveling birder who may have half an hour or half a day to bird along the way. This book describes dozens of locations within 20 minutes' drive of the major north south freeways in the region, and includes over 100 useful maps. Harry will share site photos, birds, and maps. Presentation will be followed by book signing. A\$10 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Harry Fuller*