

# 2020 Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

*Wednesday, January 22*

## Field Trips

### **Birds, River, & Riparian Forests** **NEW**

Wed 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Birds and wildlife are right at home in these two restored riparian areas along the Sacramento River. Join one of the area's top birders as you hike into two large scale habitat restoration sites, Hamilton City Project and the Ord Bend Unit, where reviving the native habitat was essential to birds, wildlife, and flood protection for communities. The river is a magnet for birds, and some past sightings have included Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Barrow's Goldeneye, and White-throated Sparrow. Bring snacks, water, and binoculars. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Michael Rogner*

### **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*

### **Birding, History, & Wine Tasting in Durham**

Wed 8:45 am - 4:15 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 early lunch stop will be at Durham Community Park where Yellow-billed Magpies are often found! After lunch we'll stop for birding along the levy at Butte Creek and then we're off to the Durham Cemetery, where you'll find out the interesting history of the founding family, the Durhams, and California pioneer Sam Neal. After the cemetery, we will spend time with another pioneer, wood recycler Randy McLaughlin, at his Olde Durham Wood Company yard on Oro Chico Hwy. This discussion about wood recycling and composting is sure to be interesting. Then to finish off the day, we'll stop at the [Almendra Winery & Distillery](#) for some wine tasting. Tasting fee included in price. **Bring lunch, water, and dress warmly with appropriate foot wear.** A\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Bill Smith*

## 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

Wed 9:00 am - 4:00 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. We'll also visit the Maxwell Cemetery to try to sight the Vermilion Flycatcher that's been spending the winters there and drive along Maxwell-Sites Road, where we've seen Canyon Wren, Golden Eagle, and Greater Roadrunner. Bring water, binoculars, and a lunch. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Joyce Bond and Carol Anderson*

## 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 and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Gary Nielsen and Gary Moeller*

(Continued)

## 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*

## Basics of Wildlife Photography Workshop (Wednesday) and Field Trip (Thursday)

Wed 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This is a Wednesday workshop with a Thursday morning field trip.** With the advent of digital cameras, wildlife photography has become a rapidly growing pastime for millions of people. Birding tours now have as many participants with cameras as with binoculars. The elements of this workshop are to discuss the equipment and costs, explain the basic processes, discuss field methods, and show and tell of the various equipment for wildlife photography. This workshop involves a PowerPoint program on the above topics, display of equipment, and an introduction to the most productive locations. **The workshop will begin at 1:00 pm on Wednesday at the Chico Masonic Family Center and last approximately 2 hours. The following day, Thursday, we will meet in the early morning at the Llano Seco Wildlife Area about 30 minutes from Chico. The field trip will commence shortly after sunrise (about 7:00 am) and conclude at 10:00 am.** This area provides excellent opportunities to explore many aspects of bird photography. Several species of ducks and geese, Sandhill Cranes, and several raptor species are often found in close proximity to the viewing platform and trails and in the adjacent agricultural areas. Due to the potential for inclement weather conditions, rain gear and rain protection for equipment may be needed. Discussions on lighting, focus, distances, etc. will be included. All ages 16 and older are welcome. Dress warmly and bring water and a snack. A\$38 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Kirby Flanagan*

(Continued)

## Eagle Roost Safari

Wed 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be emailed to you prior to the Festival.)*

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.** \$125

Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

## Bat Safari

Wed 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\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Linda Angerer*

## Wednesday, January 22

### Presentations/Workshops

#### "Early Bird Catches the Worm" Painting Class **NEW**

Wed 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Meet at Studio 561*

Join us at [Studio 561](#) for a whimsical paint night with these quirky birds. Acrylic on canvas. Beginners welcome! Wine and refreshments hosted and potluck appetizers welcome. Sign up a friend for a fun night out! All ages 9 and older are welcome. \$45 *Presenter: Christine Mac Shane*

# *Thursday, January 23*

## **Field Trips**

### **Colusa NWR & Sutter Buttes NEW**

Thu 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is among the best places to view large concentrations of waterfowl and other water birds wintering in the Central Valley. We should see more than 100,000 geese and ducks, and on past trips we have identified more than 80 species of birds. We will also drive around the Sutter Buttes to look for raptors, songbirds, and Sandhill Cranes, and we'll go from there to District 10 north of Marysville to see Tundra Swans, White-faced Ibis, and other waterfowl as the sun sets over the Buttes. Bring a lunch & something to drink, and wear warm clothes and bring a raincoat if the weather is wet and cold—the trip is on, rain or shine. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 1

*Field Trip Leader: Ted Beedy*

### **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 less than 3 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: John Seid and Joan Robins*

### **Lake Oroville Pontoon Boat Tour**

Thu 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, 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. **Bring your own lunch, water, and binoculars, and dress in warm layers. A boat tour in the winter can be chilly.** Note: 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. A\$55 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Mary Wrynski*

(Continued)

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

## 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. **An extra pair of waterproof boots is a must due to a creek crossing. Following your time outdoors, you will enjoy lunch at the ranch house with Divide Ranch's 100% Grass-Fed Beef on the menu.** 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\$20 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Mike and Kathy Landini and Pamela Waldsmith and Karen L. Smith*

## Feathers, Figs, & Olives

Thu 8:15 am - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Here is a unique field trip! First on the menu, taste some figs at Maywood Organic Fig Farm in Corning and take a tour by owner Bob Steinacher. The family's entire operation (orchards, packing, storage, and shipping) and their home are on site. Then take a short stroll through the surrounding orchards and end up at a seasonal creek with riparian habitat. This place is a winter haven for many bird species, which include sparrows, finches, kinglets, towhees, juncos, thrushes, woodpeckers, and even owls and hawks. After your morning of birding and figs, take the short trip into Corning to the Corning Olive Oil Company. Once there, you will be given a tour and have the opportunity to taste several of their olive oils. Birding will continue on the way back with a stop at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area to search for the winter birds that take advantage of the towering oaks, grandiose sycamores, and lofty cottonwoods in these healthy habitat areas along the Sacramento River. Wear good walking/hiking shoes, and bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Bob Steinacher and Bill Frey*

(Continued)

## Gray Lodge Wildlife Area with Karen Amstutz

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. Target birds will include Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Wigeon, Black-necked Stilt, and Long-billed Curlew to name a few. Please bring your binoculars, a lunch, and plenty of water. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Victor Paz and Ruth Paz and Karen Amstutz*

## 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\$15 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr*

## Sandhill Cranes & Winter Raptors **NEW**

Thu 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*

## 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. This refuge is generally closed to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to visit this area that is home to large numbers of Pacific Flyway's wintering waterfowl and host to hundreds of shorebirds, herons, egrets and raptors. 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: Jan Martinez*

(Continued)

## After the Basics: Intermediate Wildlife Photography Workshop (Thursday) & Field Trip (Friday)

Thu 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

**This is a Thursday workshop with a Friday morning field trip.** Digital photography has made wildlife photography easier and more fun. But good wildlife photography does require some knowledge of composition, lighting, equipment and the exposure triangle. This workshop will take some of the mystery out of these more advanced techniques and allow you to make wildlife photos that you can be proud of. The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrations and discussion of field techniques. **The workshop will begin at 1:00 pm on Thursday at the Chico Masonic Family Center and last approximately 2 hours. On Friday, we will meet in the early morning at the Llano Seco Wildlife Area about 30 minutes from Chico. The field trip will begin at 7:00 am and conclude around 10:00 am.** Multiple species of ducks and geese, Sandhill Cranes, and several raptor species are often found near the viewing platform, along trails and in the adjacent agricultural areas. Due to the potential for rain and mud, rain gear and boots for yourself plus rain protection for your equipment may be needed. Individualized help with advanced techniques will be provided in the field. All ages 16 and older are welcome. Dress warmly and bring your rain gear and boots. Water and a snack are suggested. A\$38 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Kirby Flanagan*

## Eagle Roost Safari

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be emailed to you prior to the Festival.)*

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.** \$125 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

(Continued)

## Historic Llano Seco Rancho -- 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 [Llano Seco Rancho](#) 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. **If the ranch property is inaccessible due to flooding, we will travel to the viewing platform at the Llano Seco Unit to view the waterfowl after hearing about the ranch's history and current farming practices.** 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\$35 - Y\$15 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Richard Thieriot*

## 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\$37 - Y\$20 Level 2

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

## *Thursday, January 23*

## Presentations/Workshops

### "Red-tailed Hawk" Painting Class **NEW**

Thu 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Meet at Studio 561*

This watercolor and pen painting created at [Studio 561](#) will be a beautiful addition to your art collection. Wine and refreshments hosted and potluck appetizers welcome. Sign up a friend for a fun night out! Ages 9 and older are welcome. \$45 *Presenter: Christine Mac Shane*

# *Friday, January 24*

## **Field Trips**

### **Cole & Book Family Farms**

Fri 6:30 am - 11:30 am

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Let your birding begin at two local farms. Our first stop will be at the Book Family Farm for the early morning eagle fly-out from their foothill roosting site. The farms' fields attract Sandhill Cranes and a variety of resident and wintering birds. Just down the road, our second stop, the Cole Farm, has a large pond with cattails and tules, perfect habitat for numerous waterbirds. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Keith Book and Gary Cole and Jerry Dirnberger and Lorraine Smith*

### **Marathon Big Day Birding in Nevada County**

Fri 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Bulk up your County list. 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 Nevada County in one day. Nevada County is long and narrow, starting in the foothills and crossing the Sierras! We will visit many of that county's hotspots. 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 and be prepared to eat in the vehicles while driving to locations. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

*Field Trip Leader: Scott Huber*

### **Paddle the North Forebay **NEW****

Fri 7:15 am - 12:15 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Participants will paddle the North Forebay with experienced guides who are familiar with the abundant and diverse wildlife. These ecological tours will educate flat-water boaters on safe boating practices and the ecology of the area. We will also do a short walking tour of our beautiful habitat. There are 15 seats available in either a single or tandem sit-on-top or sit-in kayaks, canoes, pedal boats, or stand-up paddle boards depending on your experience. Guests will be provided with all boating equipment and fundamental paddling instruction for novice to experienced. Guests are advised to bring appropriately warm and waterproof clothing, cameras and binoculars. Warm drinks and muffins are provided. The [Forebay Aquatic Center](#) (FAC) is a facility that supports recreation throughout the Thermalito complex and the Feather River Watershed. Floats are appropriate for ages 8 and up and are a low impact, physically active, a great way to view the wildlife and migratory waterfowl prominent during this time. Our trip has access to the non-motorized State Park areas which are inaccessible to motorized vehicles and boats. Entry fee into the State Park is included in the price. **This trip is also offered on Saturday morning with different leaders.** A\$50 - Y\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Brad Cooke and Dan Efseaff*

## 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*

## Llano Seco Rancho -- Land, Water, & Wildlife

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Farming operations and managed wildlife areas at [Llano Seco Rancho](#) 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 guide John Hunt is a local ecologist who has 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. Also, Llano Seco Rancho employees will take some time in the cookhouse to share about the history of the property. 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: John W. Hunt and Malia Forbert*

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

*Field Trip Leader: Peter Sands*

(Continued)

## 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\$15 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.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Shane Romain*

## 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\$15 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr*

(Continued)

## 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: David Samuels*

## Dye Creek Preserve

Fri 8:45 am - 3:45 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

In the Lassen Foothills of eastern Tehama County, scenic Dye Creek Preserve will be an adventure for the hiker and birder. While hiking the rugged Dye Creek Canyon, we will discuss land management efforts by The Nature Conservancy, Yahi Indian occupation, local geology, and the ecosystem. Expect to see birds common to oak woodlands and riparian habitats in January such as the Belted Kingfisher, Lewis's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Oak Titmouse, Brown Creeper, and Western Bluebird. Sightings of raptors could include Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks. The hike is a strenuous, rugged and uneven, four mile trek and has three stream crossings. The depth of the water crossings is subject to weather conditions. Bring lunch and drink. **Boots/sturdy footwear is a MUST!** A\$27 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Donald Beers*

## Raptors, River, & Waterfowl with Karen Amstutz **NEW**

Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This trip offers spectacular opportunities to see wintering swans, geese, and raptors along Cottonwood Road off Hwy 99. Ferruginous Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Burrowing Owl are just a few of the raptors that may be found here. In addition, we will hike part of the Feather River Trail in Oroville to view the numerous diving ducks, herons, and egrets. Common and Barrow's Goldeneye are often found here. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and wear layered clothing for winter weather. A\$32 - Y\$15 Level 1

*Field Trip Leaders: Gaylord Grams and Karen Amstutz*

## Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Fri 9:00 am - 4:30 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, Cliff Swallows, 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. **This trip is also offered on Saturday with different leaders.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Joyce Bond and Carol Anderson*

## Demystifying Ducks: Getting to Know Your Waterfowl **NEW**

Fri 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Waterfowl are not only one of the most attractive groups of birds, but they are also some of the best to begin to identify as they are all color-coded. Male ducks may be showy, but the females are often quite subdued and difficult to differentiate. Begin with a workshop led by Harry Fuller on waterfowl identification and then head into the field to put your skills to use! Bring lunch, 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*

## Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Fri 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: Mary Muchowski and Joseph O'Neil*

## 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*

## 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*

## Eagle Roost Safari

Fri 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be emailed to you prior to the Festival.)*

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. \$125**

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*

## *Friday, January 24*

## Presentations/Workshops

### 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 female quail in a feeding pose. 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 Ken Nelson*

# *Saturday, January 25*

## **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\$35 - Y\$20 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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd and Scott Thomas and Colin Dillingham*

### **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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Skip Augur*

(Continued)

## Paddle the North Forebay **NEW**

Sat 7:15 am - 12:15 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Participants will paddle the North Forebay with experienced guides who are familiar with the abundant and diverse wildlife. These ecological tours will educate flat-water boaters on safe boating practices and the ecology of the area. We will also do a short walking tour of our beautiful habitat. There are 15 seats available in either a single or tandem sit-on-top or sit-in kayaks, canoes, pedal boats, or stand-up paddle boards depending on your experience. Guests will be provided with all boating equipment and fundamental paddling instruction for novice to experienced. Guests are advised to bring appropriately warm and waterproof clothing, cameras and binoculars. Warm drinks and muffins are provided. The [Forebay Aquatic Center](#) (FAC) is a facility that supports recreation throughout the Thermalito complex and the Feather River Watershed. Floats are appropriate for ages 8 and up and are a low impact, physically active, a great way to view the wildlife and migratory waterfowl prominent during this time. Our trip has access to the non-motorized State Park areas which are inaccessible to motorized vehicles and boats. Entry fee into the State Park is included in the price. **This trip is also offered on Friday morning with different leaders.** A\$50 - Y\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Brad Cooke and Tess McGuire*

## Wilbur Road & the Afterbay

Sat 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*

## 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*

(Continued)

## 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: Cortney Lopez*

## 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 a VERY strenuous hike over some VERY 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 Blair Pubols*

## 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\$15 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: Gregory Purifoy*

## Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch

Sat 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Gridley McDonald's*

You see the outline of the Sutter Buttes from nearly all the roads running up and down our great valley - now it's time to see them from the inside. Spend a special day hiking in a place like no other - lose your sense of time as we explore the hills and valleys of the old Dean Place and earn spectacular views of the valley around us. We'll check out the birds wintering in the hills, see the unique geology of this extinct volcano, and look for signs of the many creatures that live in the Sutter 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 Cedar Grove **NEW**

Sat 8:15 am - 12:15 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Join us for a bird and tree walk in Lower Bidwell Park. This gentle 2-mile walk will focus on identifying the many birds that inhabit this local site. The walk include Cedar Grove's "World of Trees" Nature Trail and a stop along Big Chico Creek. The "World of Trees" is an arboretum that has many native shrubs, plants, and species of trees, some of which are over 100 years old. Joseph and John will discuss identification topics including how to identify trees that are defoliated and how birds use trees for habitat and food. With the large variety of plants and trees and the ready access to water, many species of birds flock to the center. We hope to see Western Bluebird, kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, several species of woodpeckers, and possibly raptors. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Joseph O'Neil and John Meserve and Melanie Albrecht Peterson*

## Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Sat 8:15 am - 3:45 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, Cliff Swallows, 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. **This trip is also offered on Friday with different leaders.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey*

## Llano Seco Viewing Platform with Karen Amstutz (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\$32 - Y\$15 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Shelly Kirn and Karen Amstutz*

## 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 monks and a wine maker now reside. As we leave Chico, our first travels will include Meridian and Lassen Roads. This is an excellent location to see Horned Lark, Prairie Falcons, Bald Eagles, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, and Ferruginous Hawk. Next, we'll explore the riparian and oak woodland habitats of the Sacramento River at the Red Bluff Recreation Area in search of resident and wintering birds such as woodpeckers, raptors, thrushes, sparrows, bluebirds, ducks and more. Time allowing, we will then travel to Cone Grove Park for lunch and loop around on Foothill Rd in search of Mountain Bluebirds on our way to 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\$40 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Matt Forster and Bill Smith*

## Foothill Bird Trek

Sat 8:45 am - 12:45 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. Phainopeplas have been sighted here. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** Dress in layers and bring water and binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Lorraine Smith*

## Birds & Brews **NEW**

Sat 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will take a cruise down Old Humboldt Road looking for Phainopepla, Western Bluebird, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow and maybe pick up a Lewis's Woodpecker. Then after a brief stop at the east end of 20th Street, we'll head over to the Chico Seed Orchard to see what wintering passerines we can find, usually spotting some high country birds that like the pines such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper, and if we're lucky, maybe we'll spy a Varied Thrush or Red Crossbill. We'll finish the day with a visit to the [Secret Trail Brewing Company](#) to taste some local Chico ales. Food available for purchase, or you can bring a lunch. Bring binoculars, water, and a snack. A\$35 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Mary Muchowski*

(Continued)

## Explore the Wild Side of Butte Creek

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. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** Bring a lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leader: Dan Efseaff*

## Family Hike at Bidwell Park's Five Mile Recreation Area

Sat 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The less visited Five Mile Recreation Area of Bidwell Park is the setting for a fun family adventure. The riparian ecosystem along Big Chico Creek is a great place to see a large variety of bird species. It is excellent birding for beginners, both youths and adults. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars will be available to borrow. 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 Friday and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Ross Schaefer*

(Continued)

## 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 and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Gary Nielsen and Gary Moeller*

## 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*

## Eagle Roost Safari

Sat 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be emailed to you prior to the Festival.)*

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.** \$125 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

# *Saturday, January 25*

## **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\$12 - 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\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenters: Dan Dugan and Greg Weddig and Sharon Perry*

### **The Galapagos Islands: A Virtual Tour **NEW****

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Please join me for a visit to the Galapagos Islands, no passport or air fare required. Using my photos, I'll take you on a on a visual exploration of the wildlife unique to the islands as well as some familiar wildlife that has adapted to the unique biosphere of these islands. We will also be discussing the geology and rich history of this incredible place. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Kirby Flanagan*

### **What's Wild? Yesterday and Today **NEW****

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

We will look at what the San Francisco Peninsula was like 250 years ago and how radically that's changed. We will also see and discuss what's still very wild in eastern Oregon's Malheur Basin, a crucial stopover on the annual migration route of Ross's Geese and home to birds rarely seen west of the Sierra. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Harry Fuller*

## **Photographing Birds & Nature - Where to Go in California NEW**

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

This program is an introduction to some of the locations in California and nearby southern Oregon that provide excellent opportunities to photograph nature, particularly birds and scenic views. Photography opportunities on the refuges of the Sacramento Refuge Complex will be discussed in addition to recommended methods of photographing at the other locations covered in the presentation. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Steve Emmons*

## **Reflecting Back as We Rebuild the Future after Fires NEW**

Sat 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

The Northstate has been severely impacted in recent years by wildfires. This presentation will begin with a quick slide show followed by a short discussion of rebuilding processes and of landscapes that make a comeback after the fires. Next, we will view the short film, *Firewise: The Scientists Speak*, which will weave the personal accounts and findings of leading fire scientists and firefighters who work to provide fire-safe communities while understanding the high value of backcountry wildfire, and working to protect the backcountry. This will also be followed by questions, answers, and a discussion. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Maya Khosla*

## **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\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Mike Hubbartt*

## ***Sunday, January 26***

### **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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd and Scott Thomas and Colin Dillingham*

## Southwestern Colusa County - Sand Creek Road **NEW**

Sun 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center*

Sand Creek Road begins in southwestern Colusa County five miles west of the town of Arbuckle. The road begins at 315' elevation and climbs approximately 12 miles to 1300' where it crests before dropping down into Yolo County and the Cache Creek drainage. Starting from a short stretch of almond orchard, the vegetation quickly turns to oak savannah transitioning to oak woodland into chaparral - gray pine interspersed with riparian influenced habitats. The road begins with poor asphalt and then becomes dirt. Traffic along the road is usually very light, so stopping to check out sightings is favorable. Target species for this area include: Lewis's Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, Bell's Sparrow, Rock Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Loggerhead Shrike. Bring snacks, lunch, and water. **High-clearance vehicles are recommended, and carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 1

*Field Trip Leaders: Stuart Angerer and Matt Forster*

## Coast Range Foothills via Newville Road

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 Leaders: Phil Johnson and Ross Schaefer*

## 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 us 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 Dan Dugan and Greg Weddig and Sharon Perry*

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

*Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt and Spencer Morrison*

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

*Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt and Spencer Morrison*

## Birds & Trees of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve

Sun 8:15 am - 12:15 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. Possible sightings include Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Ducks, goldeneye, Great Horned Owl, and assorted warblers. Goose and duck fly-overs are also possibilities. Otters and beavers may also be seen. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** We will explore issues that relate to how trees and plants respond to fire damage. Still lots of natural beauty and encouraging signs of recovery to explore. Wear sturdy shoes/boots and bring water, and snacks. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

*Field Trip Leaders: Joseph O'Neil and John Meserve and Jon Aull and Melanie Albrecht Peterson*

## 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 Karen Amstutz.** 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 less than 3 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: Charlie Cornell and Liam Huber*

## 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 Friday.** 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 Friday and Saturday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Skip Augur and Lisa Winslow*

(Continued)

## Raptor Run

Sun 9:30 am - 2:30 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 and Saturday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Michelle Ocken and Gary Nielsen*

## **Family Hike at Verbena Fields**

Sun 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. **This trip allows you to get back in time for the free Raptor Force Assembly at 1:00 pm at the Chico Masonic Family Center.** A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 2

*Field Trip Leader: Heidi Gysin*

## **Eagle Roost Safari**

Sun 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

*Meet at (Directions will be emailed to you prior to the Festival.)*

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.** \$125 Level 2

*Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood*

# ***Sunday, January 26***

## **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\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John "Mac" McCormick*