



# Falcon Flyer

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

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

## Important Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Calendar

**Field Trip, Saturday, May 13-** We will make our usual visit to Potter Valley and the **Eel River with George Chanot**. The primary birding is done along the scenic main stem of the Eel River with stops at the Pioneer Bridge, Trout Creek, and possibly Burris Lane. Both MacGillivray's and Hermit Warblers are usually seen on this trip, and they can be difficult to find elsewhere in the county. Other possible birds include Bald Eagle and American Dipper. We will leave from the Ukiah CVS parking lot at 8:00 am, or you can meet us at the old Potter Valley bridge site along the Russian River (1/4 mile north of Hwy 20 on Potter Valley Road) at 8:30.

**Meeting, Tuesday, May 16- The incomparable Matthew Matthiessen** will be this evening's speaker, and he be taking us to Ecuador in a presentation he calls "**Ants and Umbrellas: The Amazing Birds of Ecuador**". Matthew traveled to Ecuador, which he describes as "one of the 'birdiest' places on the planet," for about two weeks in December and January of 2015. Incredibly biodiverse, Ecuador—including the Galapagos—harbors more than 1,600 species of birds, about 15 percent of the world's known species. Matthew's presentation will focus mostly on birds of the cloud forest in the western highlands, including the Rainbow Starfrontlet, Ocellated Tapaculo, Whooping Motmot, and Long-wattled Umbrellabird. Typical of the Neotropics, many species are eye-catching, even stunningly gaudy, while others are less showy, so well camouflaged in their luxuriantly vegetated habitats that they frequently escape observers' notice. Matthew's world-class photography and his engaging speaking style will provide a most-entertaining evening. His reputation is well deserved!

# WINTER BIRD OBSERVATIONS 2016-2017



*Chuck Vaughn and Bob Keiffer*

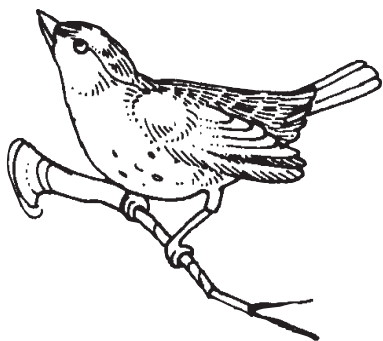
The winter bird period covers the months of December through February. It can often provide some birding surprises, and this year was no exception. A TENNESSEE WARBLER was found at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens (MCBG) on 12/28 (MS). This was the county's first winter record, and the obliging bird stayed in the gardens through at least 2/12 (mob). The LUCY'S WARBLER that MC found at the old Willits Wastewater Treatment ponds on 11/29 continued through at least 12/1 (mob). An unsuccessful search for the LUCY'S WARBLER on 12/4 (SS) did turn up a WILSON'S WARBLER, just our fourth winter record for this extremely rare winter visitor.

A BROWN BOOBY was seen flying N just offshore from the MCBG (12/3;TB,DJ,mob). This bird is extremely rare in the county at any time of year, and this was just our third winter record. The number of wintering TUNDRA SWANS in the Manchester/Garcia River area has been declining over the past decade. This year only 4 were seen, and they did not stay long (12/17 to 1/28;mob). While drought is suspected to have contributed to the recent decline, a more likely reason this winter was that flood waters washed out the Brush Creek estuary where there is usually a large winter lake. Two marine ducks, both extremely rare inland, were found on the N end of Lake Mendocino by GG. He photographed a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER on 12/8 and a RED-BREASTED MERGANSER on 2/2. The latter

bird stayed in the area through at least 2/26 (mob). A rare AMERICAN BITTERN was seen on Hunter's Lagoon near Manchester (1/2-28; RA,RK). The NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW seen and photographed at the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant (12/11;CV) was just our second December record for this extremely rare winter bird. Rare winter shorebirds included a RUDDY TURNSTONE seen from the Pt Arena Lighthouse (1/28;RK;GG,HM,K&KL), and a ROCK SANDPIPER at Virgin Creek beach (12/4;LW). A rare RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER was well seen and photographed at Russian River Estates (12/28-29;VM,AJ). RL and CM photographed a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW at their Little River home (12/1), and this was only our third winter record for this species. At least 8 LAWRENCE'S GOLD-FINCHES

were seen at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center (1/14-19), and this is only the sixth time these irruptive birds have ever been seen in winter in the county. That's it! Please report all rare and unusual birds to Bob Keiffer (744-1424, [rjkeiffer@att.net](mailto:rjkeiffer@att.net)), to Mendobirds ([groups.yahoo.com/group/Mendobirds](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mendobirds)), and to *eBird* ([ebird.org/content/ebird](http://ebird.org/content/ebird)).

*Observers: Roger Adamson, Tim Bray, Mike Curry, George Gibbs, Andy Jahn, Dave Jensen, Ryan Keiffer, Keith Leland, Kent Leland, Ron LeValley, Charlene MacAllister, Virginia Macintosh, Helen Menasian, Steve Stump, Malcolm Swan, Chuck Vaughn, Lisa Walker*



## Donations

- Dolores Toivonen
- Karen Havlena
- Helen Menasian
- Sam Goldberg and Pat Tysoe - in honor of Roger and Chuck's Environmental Education fund



# WOW! WHO BROUGHT THOSE FANTASTIC COOKIES?



If you have enjoyed the post-meeting cookie feasts (and who hasn't?), please take a moment to thank Sandy Applegate and Susan Knopf the next time you see them. They have been voluntarily providing us these wonderful treats for a number of years now. It is past time that we recognize not only their baking skills, but also their thoughtful generosity to our entire membership. Thank you Sandy and Susan!!

## Fieldtrip Report

Our February field trip was slated for the Bu-shay area at Lake Mendocino, but a closed access road meant we relocated to the North boat ramp and Pomo day-use areas. We had good turnout of 19 birders. The most notable bird was a continuing, and rare-in-inland areas, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. We had good views of 4 different GREBE species, views of a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK occupying a nest, an INTERGRADE (RED/YELLOW-SHAFTED) NORTHERN FLICKER, BROWN CREEPERS and a lone WHITE-THROATED SPARROW mixed in with other crowned-sparrows. Despite large numbers of ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS and recent reports, we didn't see any of the early RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

migrants. Most of us got our feet a bit wet but it turned out to be a quite enjoyable morning. Around 50 species were tallied.

Our March Beginner walk was held at Riverside Park in Ukiah. We had a nice turnout of 15 including several experienced birders to help with ID'ing. Most of us had good looks at both DOWNEY and HAIRY WOOD-PECKERS, offering a nice learning opportunity. We had distant views of both TREE and VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS. At least 6 HOUSE WRENS were seen, and were lifers for some of the participants. A lone LARK SPARROW was singing, and recent arrivals included ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS and CHIPPING SPARROWS. 48 species were counted in total.



Peregrine Audubon Society  
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[www.peregrineaudubon.org](http://www.peregrineaudubon.org)

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## Peregrine Audubon Society *Local Membership Only*

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

Please send \$20 for membership payable to:

Peregrine Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 311  
Ukiah, CA 95482

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Chapter C2ZC540Z