



# 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 12-** We will be birding **Potter Valley and the Eel River with George Chaniot**. 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, White-throated Swift, 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. Bring your lunch, water, binoculars, and favorite field guides.

**Meeting, Tuesday, May 15-** Come visit and explore the birds of **Australia** this evening with our old friend **Matthew Matthiessen**. Australia, the land "Down Under," is an island, a country (the world's sixth largest geographically) and a continent (the world's smallest). Having no land borders, the Australian mainland—"the lowest, flattest and oldest continental landmass on Earth"—and its satellite islands collectively boast more than 37,000 miles of coastline, embracing an impressive diversity of landscapes, flora and fauna, including more than 800 species of birds. Australia is probably best known for its incredible mammals. But the country is also a premier birding destination, not only because of its avian beauty and diversity, but also because of the uniqueness of its avian population. The high number of endemic species—species that occur only there and nowhere else due to the island's geographic isolation—makes the birding experience that much more exciting and enjoyable. In October/November 2016 Matthew visited the Australian states of New South Wales and Queensland. He will be sharing a selection of photos and stories of the birds and mammals he experienced, ranging from tiny Fairywrens, the iconic Kookaburras and Noisy Friarbirds, to massive Emus and amazing mammals, including an array of kangaroos. In addition to his World-class photographs, Matthew's presentations are engaging and entertaining. See you there!



# Annual Lassen Park Campout

We have enjoyed the birding and camping at the Lost Creek Group Campground for several years, so we are scheduling this event again this year in conjunction with Altacal Audubon. Group Camp sites #4 & 5 have been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. We are inviting the Redwood Region, Peregrine, Mendocino, Plumas and Redbud Chapters to join us.

Species expected include Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Vaux's Swift, Common Nighthawk, Bufflehead, Gray Jay, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager and Cassin's Finch. Possibles include Sooty Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Cassin's Vireo, Pygmy Nuthatch, Green-tailed Towhee and Evening Grosbeak.

We will bird Manzanita Lake and vicinity on Saturday morning. The rest of the itinerary is open and will depend on the interests of the participants.

Folks can either camp at Lost Creek or drive up for either or both Saturday and Sunday. Campers can arrive at the campsite at a time of their choosing on Friday afternoon. Saturday day trippers should meet at the Kutra's Park meeting place at 8:00 am Saturday morning to car pool. Day trippers for Sunday, July 30, will meet at the campsite at 9:00 am.

Lost Creek (<https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/lost-creek-group-campground.htm>) has primitive facilities; pit toilets and no electricity. Potable water is available. Contact Larry Jordan, 949-5266 or email [Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org](mailto:Webmaster@WintuAudubon.org) for other particulars.

## Donations

•Jeff and Maureen Taylor

## Rat Island Excerpt

Excerpt from: Rat Island, Predators in Paradise and World's Greatest Wildlife Rescue  
by William Stolzenburg,  
Bloomsbury Press, 2011; Page 209

"In the United States alone, some fifty thousand alien invaders [species] have been helped ashore and across the borders. The invaders include more than a billion rats and one hundred million house cats, the latter of which have been implicated in the demise of perhaps a billion small mammals, lizards and birds every year in the U.S.

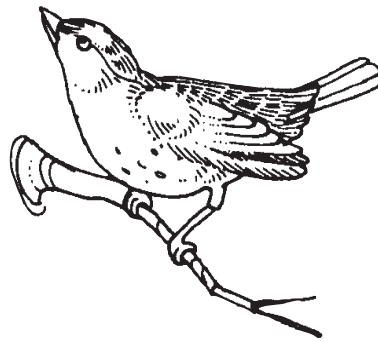
Americans have been slow to concern themselves with these figures.... In Galveston, Texas a man who shot one feral cat as it was chasing a rare shorebird was arrested and faced up to two years in jail and sixty-thousand dollar fine before the charges were overturned. There are now organizations through out the country actually promoting and feeding feral cat colonies. They are operating very successfully in Hawaii, the U.S. capitol of extinction and endangerment, where some of the rarest birds on the planet are still being taken by subsidized cats."



# February Beginners Bird Walk

On 24 Feb. a nice group of 21 folks braved the 32 degree starting temperature and had a nice time birding the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cool weather may have limited our species count but nonetheless the day total for the group was 55. Starting at the small “sludge” pond, we had excellent views of some male Cinnamon Teal mixed in with the more-abundant Green-winged Teal. An immature Cooper’s Hawk, which was hunting sparrows, perched in the low vegetation allowing for nice eye-level and stationary views. A Common Raven perched with a full rabbit head, perhaps displaying it for a nearby (potential?) mate. At the main ponds we re-found a Eurasian subspecies Green-winged Teal and had nice views of most of the expected ducks such as Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Northern shoveler, a lone Northern Pintail, Mallards and Ring-Necked Duck.

Despite lots of mud showing, we didn’t re-find an American Avocet which was present earlier in the week. We did see Killdeers displaying, a lone Spotted Sandpiper, and a small group of Least Sandpipers. A lone American Pipit may have been taking advantage of the exposed shoreline also. Perhaps due to cool conditions, we didn’t see as many passerines as in previous years, but did have views of most of the expected sparrows including Fox, Lincoln’s, Savannah, White-crowned and Golden-crowned. Wrapping up our walk, we had nice views of some new raptors, including Red-tailed Hawks and an Osprey. A Peregrine Falcon made a low pass over the South pond, but when it didn’t succeed in rousing the ducks it landed, and we got nice perched scope views.



## March Lake Mendocino Field Trip

On March 24 a group of 10 of us met up for a nice walk on the North side of Lake Mendocino. The weather was cool but pleasant and immediately we saw good numbers of swallows flying low over the lake, including Northern Rough-winged, Barn, Violet-green and Tree. We saw a nice variety of sparrows, including the expected Dark-eyed Juncos, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Song and Lincoln Sparrows, both Towhee species with a lone White-throated Sparrow mixed in. Warbler-wise, we saw some of our winter resident Yellow-rumped plus a few recently-arrived Orange-crowned. We saw most of the other expected winter passerines in decent numbers, though activity was somewhat limited in the campground area perhaps due to construction there. A Red-

shouldered Hawk was observed again this year on its nest. On the lakeshore, we saw the expected Killdeer and a lone Spotted Sandpiper. On the lake, we saw a nice group of over 100 Common Mergansers, a couple groups of Buffleheads, a few Scaup, and a lone Northern Shoveler. A lone Cinnamon Teal was found associating with American Wigeon, and somewhat unexpected at this location. Expected Western and Clarks Grebes were seen and also a few Eared Grebes which were molting into breeding plumage. A check of the flowering Eucalyptus trees yielded several Anna’s Hummingbird and a possible Selasphorus type hummingbird.

A pleasant day overall! Our last field trip of the spring will be on May12, Potter Valley and the Eel River. See the calendar for details.



# PROPOSITION 68

Audubon California has long fought to protect California's birds and natural landscapes – and encourage more people to experience these treasures – and that is why our organization emphatically supports Proposition 68 -- the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018. The measure will go before voters on June 5.

Background: This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians don't have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Demand for local parks has exceeded available funding by a factor of 8-to-1, with particularly high need in urban, disadvantaged communities. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California's natural treasures, and threatened our communities with flooding and ecological degradation. These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that have made us the envy of the world.

The opportunity: Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers to put the \$4 billion parks and water bond on the June 5, 2018, primary ballot in California. The California Drought, Water,

Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 will support of parks, protect natural resources and wildlife, increase drought and flood protection, and supply safe, clean water throughout the state.

The parks and water bond includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities:

\$2.83 billion for parks and natural resources funding

- Investments in park-poor neighborhoods
- Much-needed maintenance for state parks
- Trails and creek restoration
- Funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea

\$1.27 billion for water reliability

- Clean drinking water projects
- Groundwater clean-up and sustainability
- Flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects

\$767 million for state conservancies

- Vital landscape-scale conservation work
- Ocean, bay, and coastal protection

\$442 million for climate adaptation

- Projects to ensure habitat connectivity
- Collaborations on climate-smart farm practices
- Rivers and waterways restoration

**Peregrine Audubon needs your help!**

Please support local Peregrine conservation and educational programs with your tax deductible donation. All money goes directly to Peregrine projects and none to administrative costs.

Please accept my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Peregrine Audubon Society  
PO Box 311, Ukiah, CA 95482

How would you like this donation to be acknowledged in the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

## AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM

June 2, 2018 from  
Methodist Church Sanctuary  
270 Pine Street, Ukiah  
Admission free

The Ukiah Elders' Climate Action Group is sponsoring this interactive presentation by the Pachamama Alliance, which focuses on what we can do to fight climate change, as well as improve other aspects of modern society, such as gross inequality of income and wealth, social injustice, and endless war.

Attendees will come away inspired and empowered to work toward a better world.

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

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## Peregrine Audubon Society *Local Membership Only*

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

Please send \$20 for membership payable to:

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

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(We will not share your email with anyone)*

Chapter C2ZC540Z