



# 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.*

## Annual Membership Drive

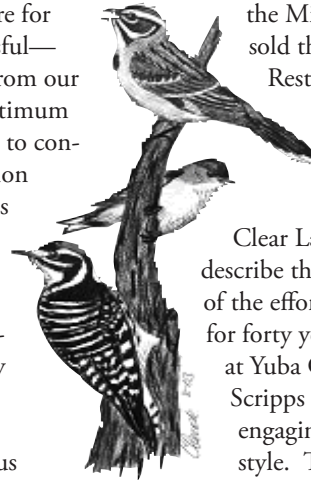
As all of you are aware by now, Peregrine Audubon Society has gone to electronic newsletters. We have replaced our old membership expiration notices with an annual membership drive. So every September we ask that you donate \$20 or more by using the "Donate!" link at peregrineaudubon.org, or by mailing a check to PAS; PO Box 311; Ukiah, 95482. This was a move we had been contemplating for some time, as costs for printing and mailing had continued to rise and most people now have reasonable access to the internet. However, one unexpected consequence of this has been a significant decline in local membership income of \$600 in our last fiscal year. Local memberships have historically provided our most stable funding source. Your dues will continue to help cover our recurring operating expenses for things like insurance, meeting room rental, environmental education in local classrooms, and our annual Mendocino college scholarships. Your membership is valued. Thank you for your help with this transition!

# Calendar



## Meeting, Tuesday, Nov 13- **\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH\*\***

This evening's presentation will discuss the **Status and Conservation of Common Loons in Washington** with Washington birders **Daniel and Ginger Poleschook**. The Poleschooks have studied Common Loons for more than 20 years. Like so many other birds, their reproductive success is challenged by many factors, some being natural, while many others are from anthropogenic sources. In the past 50 years Common Loons have had their breeding range retracted from northern California to northern Washington. The location of a small remnant population of nesting Common Loons in northeast Washington is the area where they have studied the reproductive stressors for the species at the present southwestern edge of their breeding range in North America. Their presentation will focus on the status of Common Loons in northeastern Washington, the conservation efforts that were applied there for the species, and the results—all of which were successful—of that work. Migration of Common Loons to and from our study area is a special interest of the species, as the optimum modeling of conservation efforts for the species needs to consider the inclusion of breeding, wintering and migration regions. Knowledge of migrations of Common Loons that breed in northeast Washington has recently been enhanced by observations made of a juvenile Common Loon that was banded at Swan Lake, WA on July 19, 2016. This bird was later seen and photographed on June 30, 2017 on the Mendocino County coast near Fort Bragg by Becky Bowen!



**Field Trip, Saturday, Nov 17- Round Valley-** Join us for a fall visit to the Round Valley area, one of our favorite destinations. This beautiful valley with its open grasslands and large Valley Oaks is home to a number of winter visitors not commonly seen in the Ukiah area. In past years birds of note here have included numbers of raptors like Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Peregrine and Prairie Falcons. Time and weather permitting we will continue east to the BlackButte/Eel River campground for a picnic and more birding. Meet before our 7:30 am departure from the CVS parking lot, or at 8 at the parking lot in front of Willits High School. We should reach Covelo and Keith's Market around 10:30.

## Meeting, Tuesday, Dec 11- **\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH\*\***

This evening will our annual Know Your Local Birds Slideshow and Christmas Bird Count Review. Bob Keiffer will again be giving his excellent introduction to our local wintering birds. The CBC itself is a good opportunity for birders of all experience levels to help us identify and count birds. You can assist even if you only want to count birds at your home feeders. There will be a counting group expressly for beginning birders. Everyone is welcomed to participate! After the photo presentation you will have an opportunity to sign up for your favorite area in the count circle. If you want

to help out, but are unable to attend this meeting, contact Cheryl Watson (cwatson@pacific.net).

**Christmas Bird Count and Compilation Dinner- Saturday, Dec 15-** If you wish to participate in the CBC, please attend the December 13 meeting for details. Our traditional compilation dinner will be held at the Grace Hudson Museum public room at 6 pm. Bring your own place settings and beverages as well as a main course, salad, or dessert to share. Assistance in setting up at 5 to 5:30 and cleaning up after the dinner would be appreciated.

**Meeting, Tuesday, January 15-** Join us this evening as **Harry Lyons and his musical partner Rick McCann will talk (and sing) about Clear Lake and the restoration of Middle Creek**, one of the lake's major tributaries. Harry is a founding member of the Middle Creek Restoration Coalition. This group has sold the benefits of this Flood Damage Reduction/Ecosystem Restoration in a number of ways: as a required engineering effort to prevent damage to infrastructure and related liability; as an expansion of recreational opportunity; as a step in preserving an endangered species; as a sediment trap to reduce nutrient enrichment of Clear Lake; and as an expansion of critical habitat. Harry will describe the science of the working marsh as well as the politics of the effort to make it a reality. Harry has lived in Lake County for forty years. He is an Emeritus Professor of Biology/Ecology at Yuba College, and has a PhD in Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of the University of California. He is an engaging and entertaining speaker with a unique presentation style. This will be an evening you will not want to miss!

**Field Trip- Saturday, January 19-** We will be making a birding trip to the south coast of Mendocino County, focusing on the **Point Arena and Manchester areas**. This is an excellent area for raptors, including Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. The Garcia River area is also the winter home for Tundra Swans and a variety of waterfowl. We will be car-pooling from the CVS parking lot along Orchard Avenue. It is a long drive, and we will be leaving at 7:30. Dress in layers and pack a lunch. This is pretty much a full-day trip so if you need to leave early please plan to drive your own vehicle.

# Clearlake Field Trip Report



by George Gibbs

As in recent years, our October field trip was to Clearlake. Five of us met up and birded Clearlake State Park, Lakeside Park, and Rodman Slough. The weather was beautiful and there was a decent amount of passerine activity.

Probably the most interesting avian topic at the first stop was witnessing the spectacle, though distant, of thousands of Western & Clark's Grebes with some gulls and hundreds of American White Pelicans mixed in. While this is pretty typical on Clearlake it was neat nonetheless.

What wasn't necessarily typical was the lack of migratory ducks. We didn't find a single one until we arrived at Rodman Slough, and then only a handful of Bufflehead, Ruddy, Wigeon and Shovelers. We also failed to find a single Black-crowned Night Heron, which is an expected species for the trip.

The biggest adventure of the day was making our way out to the mouth of Kelsey Creek, which typically involves following a rough deer track. This time, due to abundant downed trees and lack of recent use, it was a real chore and we considered turning back multiple times. We did persevere and got close-up views of the aforementioned pelicans, as well as California Gulls, Herring Gulls, at least one Ring-billed Gull and some more distant Bonaparte's Gulls.

We also saw several River Otters, in addition to the American Mink we saw earlier near the marina.

All together we recorded over 70 species for the day. Participants were Dave Bengston, George Gibbs, Geo Gibbs, David Menasian and Helen Menasian. Our next trip is scheduled for November 17 and will be to Covelo and Round Valley.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

## Donations

- Karen Havlena
- Pamela Callaghan
- Tamara Adams
- Lorna Maslenikov
- Candace Horsley
- Virgil Cokeley
- Helen Magruder Menasian
- Patti Boatwright
- Andrew John and Virginia MacIntosh

# REGIONAL BIRD FESTIVALS



## Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival in Morro Bay, January 18-21

The 2019 Festival will have over 130 events including Nature Track events-- events include field trips, workshops, presentations and Special Events. All-day and half-day tours take participants to a wide variety of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. Workshops cover a vast array of topics ranging from beginner birding classes to gull identification and a new workshop on bats. Volunteers have organized a packed Saturday "Family Day", which is open to the public and does not require pre-registration. A variety of vendors will be present with nature-related artwork, books, field equipment and attire, and local merchant wares. A number of the events are geared toward birders who are also photographers. Birders of all levels are welcome, and the schedule identifies programs especially appropriate for beginners or children, as well as programs that are wheelchair accessible. Check out our website at <https://morrobaybirdfestival.org/>

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### Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway in Chico, January 23-27

This action-packed 5-day event celebrates the remarkable journey of millions of waterfowl and raptors along the Pacific Flyway that call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months.

Choose from over 70 field trips and workshops that are sure to appeal to a wide variety of interests. Free nature activities

are offered for youth as well as armchair adventures for all. View impressive art at our Wildlife Art Exhibit at our new venue, MONCA (Museum of Northern California Art). Registration begins in early December (or sooner!), so we highly recommend getting on our email list in order to be notified of registration opening as soon as possible! Fly over to our website for more information! <http://snowgoosefestival.org/>

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## Olympic BirdFest 2019

Come Bird With Us  
Sequim, Washington, April 12-14, 2019  
Grab your binoculars and join the 16th annual Olympic BirdFest 2019 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 12-14, 2019.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sandspit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ...Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year,

John Marzluff, is a professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and a noted author. Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list!

Check out the offerings by going online ([www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)). Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 9-11, 2019. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Extend your Birdfest weekend with the Neah Bay post-trip, April 14-16, 2019: two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076 or E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)

Peregrine Audubon Society  
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Ukiah, CA 95482

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# Falcon Flyer



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

Chapter C2ZC540Z