



# White-tailed Kite

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties of Northern California

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

## ALTACAL Programs

Programs for the general community are normally held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Chico Creek Nature Center, 1968 E. 8th St. Chico.

In December the program is held on the second Monday and in July and August there are no programs.

### February

Monday, February 16, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Chico Creek Nature Center

### March

Monday, March 16, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Chico Creek Nature Center

## CALIFORNIA SPIDERS

Presented by TIM MANOLIS

Fear of spiders is one of the most common phobias. That's unfortunate, considering how beneficial spiders are and how fascinating. Join Tim Manolis as he introduces you to spider biology and the types of spiders that occur in California



and describes some of the more common spiders likely seen in Central Valley homes and yards. Finally, Tim will focus his talk on SALTICIDAE, the family of jumping spiders, the largest family of spiders worldwide and one of his favorites.

If you would like to preview what Tim will say about jumping spiders, check out this article he wrote for the American River Natural History Association newsletter *The Acorn* [arnha.org/images/summer2013acornweb.pdf](http://arnha.org/images/summer2013acornweb.pdf) (continued on page 2.)

jumping spider, female *Phanias concoloratus* by Ken Schneider

## Birding the SOUTH ATLANTIC FOREST of SOUTH-EAST BRAZIL

Presented by MAC MCCORMICK

This distinctive ecoregion, which stretches from coastal biomes rising to mountains habitats close to 8000 ft in elevation, provides a variety of habitats for over 500 bird species, with a high number of endemics. Join Mac McCormick for a Birder's Travelogue of this under appreciated birding destination. Within short travel times a "birder" can experience such biomes as moist tropical rain forest, tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf forests, grasslands, savannas, shrublands and coastal mangroves.



Unfortunately, since the 17th century, less than 6% of the Atlantic rainforest remains, the rest having been ruthlessly exploited. Yet the remaining habitat provides all the bird watching excitement any birder could desire. Imagine returning from this unique landscape being able to tell your close Altacal compatriots you saw a Sooretama Slaty Antshrike or a Serra do Mar Tapaculo, not to mention the signature bird of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the Spot-billed Toucanet. Mac will include a little history of the region along with a brief description of the unique culture that has developed from the mixture of European and native Amerindians. (continued on page 2.)

## ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### *Board of Directors*

President	STEVE OVERLOCK 530 514-4109 stephenoverlock@sbcglobal.net
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Director - at-Large	DEREK DUNN 414 698-3851 derekwdunn@gmail.com



American Kestrel  
Nov 16, 2014  
by David Neilsen

### *February* (continued from page 1.)

Tim Manolis (Ph.D. University of Colorado) is an artist, writer, and field biologist who has lived in Sacramento for many years. He is author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California*, and the illustrator of *Field Guides to Butterflies of the San Francisco and Sacramento Valley Regions*, and soon to be published *Field Guide to Spiders of California and the Pacific Coast States*. Tim Manolis' association with Altacal goes back to 1970, when he came to finish his BA Degree at Chico State and was actively involved with Altacal as Field Trip Chair. He and Bruce Webb produced the first Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Butte County in 1974.

### *March* (continued from page 1.)

Mac McCormick was a high school teacher in the Bay Area for 37 years. Today he lives in Chico and spends much of his time in Sierra City where he maintains a mountain cabin. He has been a Bird Banding Instructor for the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University since 1990.

Among his many accomplishments -  
Coauthor of *Checklist of the Birds of Sierra Valley / Yuba Pass*  
Author of *Checklist of the Birds of San Bruno Mt Park*  
Author of *A Checklist of the Birds of Fort Mason*  
Contributor to *Birder's Guide to Northern California*  
Bird consultant new edition of *Sierra Nevada Natural History*.

Mac is a regular contributor to Altacal Audubon and the Snow Goose Festival. His combination of knowledge, storytelling and humor, make his presentations some of the best received by our members. You won't want to miss this program

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## BOARD MEETINGS

5:15 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of each month

Altacal Audubon Society / Snow Goose Festival Office  
635 Flume Street, Chico

*Altacal Audubon Members are welcome to attend*

# from the President

by STEVE OVERLOCK



**A** big THANK YOU to all who responded to our Fall Fund Drive. And a reminder that we have changed our membership renewal schedule. Instead of renewing at your original yearly renewal date, all members will be asked to renew in March of each year. Apologies, as this was not explicit in our Fall Fund Drive Letter.

And a much deserved THANK YOU to Mary Muchowski and Gaylord Grams for organizing the local Christmas Bird Counts. Check out page 9. CBC Results for specific information to a once again well attended and still critical census taking.

Altacal is looking forward to another stellar (pun intended) year of birding, conserving, outreaching and educating. It all starts coming off with another exciting Snow Goose Festival. Jennifer Patten and her team somehow seem to make it a little bit bigger and better every year. We are truly thankful to all who worked so hard again this year. Altacal is especially grateful to have so many knowledgeable members who are so willing to share their time, energy and knowledge for so many during this amazing week.

With our Board reaching capacity, Altacal is finding this a good time to visit our goals and purposes and research the best means to reach them. If you have any suggestions or thoughts about what you would like your local Audubon Chapter to focus on or implement, please pass them along. Maybe more emphasis on field trips or education or programs or workshops or a completely new idea, we would like to hear from you.

Finally here is a link to a segment that aired on our local NPR station a few years ago during Science Friday. It's an interview with Gary Lanham and Richard Crossley. ([sciencefriday.com/segment/12/23/2011/birders-fan-out-to-count-feathered-friends.html](http://sciencefriday.com/segment/12/23/2011/birders-fan-out-to-count-feathered-friends.html)) Gary Langham, is the lead scientist behind the NAS study of climate change's impact on bird habitats. And he alludes to that study in this interview. But what else strikes me about the interview is Richard Crossley's assertion for us to just get out there. Learn about the bird's habitat and range and calendar rather than being strictly focused on the bird's name. We are not all going to know the names of all the birds that we all see but birding can still be very enjoyable and a very productive use of our time.

So **Happy Birding** as we start to prepare a welcome for our spring migrants...especially that yellow warbler, or was it a western tanager or wait, a purple martin...

18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**  
Counting birds is a fun, free, family-friendly way  
to discover and help the birds in your community.  
February 13-16, 2015 • Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to learn more.

Black-capped Chickadee by 2014 GBBC Participant Missy Mandel

Audubon The Cornell Lab of Ornithology GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SPONSORED IN PART BY

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NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

2011 Grand Prize,  
Dennis Goulet,  
Green-breasted Mango

Enter by February 23 at [www.audubonphotoawards.org](http://www.audubonphotoawards.org)

## UPCOMING

# *Bird Walks and Birding Trips*

*All of our field trips are open to beginning birders.  
Anyone with a sense of wonder is welcome to participate.*

February 7, Saturday

### **OXIDATION PONDS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Trip Leader: Matt Forster

Please join us at the Oxidation Ponds at 2:30pm to see the array of waterfowl and other goodies that visit this local hotspot. We will meet at the parking lot and walk the 3 ponds, stopping frequently to view ducks, geese, grebes, song birds and rails/soras. We will also have our eyes to the sky and view hawks and possible gulls. Matt Forster, findforster@yahoo.com, 619-347-2269

February 8, Sunday

### **OLD HUMBOLDT RD AND GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER**

Trip Leader: Mary Muchowski

Meet at the GRC, which is owned by the Mendocino National Forest and is located at 2741 Cramer Lane. (From Skyway, go south on Notre Dame, then left on Morrow Rd, then right on Cramer. Meet at the gate to the GRC.) After birding around the flat, easy trails to see many resident birds as well as some wintering songbirds, we'll carpool up to Old Humboldt Rd to potentially find rock wren and rufous-crowned sparrows. Meet at GRC entrance gate at 8:30am. Mary Muchowski, 530 228-0625 , mmuchowski@earthlink.net

February 28, Saturday

### **INDIAN FISHERIES AND WASHOUT**

Trip Leader: Mary Muchowski

Meet at Indian Fisheries parking lot at the intersection of W. Sacramento Ave and River Rd at 8:30am. We'll walk the short trail and see lots of woodpeckers, resident titmice, nuthatches, herons & egrets. Then we'll drive over to the washout to see if we can find some shorebirds and maybe some diving ducks. Mary Muchowski, 530 228-0625 , mmuchowski@earthlink.net

March 1, Sunday

### **BIRDS AND TREES OF THE GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER**

Trip Leader: Joseph O'Neil

Join us for a walk through the Genetic Resource Center in south Chico. Here is a lovely arboretum nature trail that runs next to the creek. Enjoy the 209-acre center with exotic trees and shrubs, some over 100 years old. Deciduous trees will be coming into leaf and some flowers. We will discuss tree identification and tree resources for birds. With the large variety of species, the creek and its neighboring open space, many spring and late winter species of birds will be flocking at the center. We hope to see Huttons Vireo, Western Bluebird, Downy, Harry Woodpecker, and raptors. 8am - noon. Bring sturdy shoes water and snacks. Located at 2741 Cramer Ln, Chico. Parking is limited. Please do not park in front of homes. Joseph O'Neil, josephoneil@earthlink.net

March 6 - 8, Friday - Sunday

### **HONEY LAKE STATE WILDLIFE AREA GREATER SAGE GROUSE LEK**

Trip Leader: Phil Johnson

The eastside basins of the Sierra/Cascade range hold a wealth of bird life. We'll drive up Friday evening to camp/motel. Saturday we'll meet in Susanville then bird the Honey Lake Basin and Wildlife Area for wintering raptors and waterfowl. Early Sunday morning we'll walk up Shaffer Mt to view the leking grounds of the Greater Sage Grouse. Later Sunday morning, we'll search for Chuckar, Sage Sparrow, Black-Throated Sparrow, ending the trip birding for mountain species in Jainsville. Camping at Honey Lake Wildlife Area, motels in Susanville. Several meeting places and times will be set for those that can not make the whole trip. All participants must contact the leader to arrange for the logistics of the trip (carpooling, meeting place and times, etc). Phil Johnson, ptjptj@gmail.com or 530 570-7139.

March 29, Sunday

### **TABLE MOUNTAIN BIRD AND FLOWER WALK**

Trip Leader: Matt Forster

Meet at Chico Park & Ride off Hwy 32 (closest to Hwy 99) at 9am. We'll be scouring beautiful Table Mountain to view wildlife and wildflowers! Hawks, Falcons, Horned Larks and other low range mountain birds. We'll also get beautiful looks of blooming wildflowers and Canyon and Rock Wrens from the waterfalls! Bring lunch, water and walking shoes! Matt Forster, findforster@yahoo.com, 619-347-2269

## Get to know YOUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES!



by KRISTA NICKLES, Visitor Services Assistant

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex) hosts a myriad of visitors throughout the year, primarily from October through February when the refuges are inundated with hundreds of thousands of migrating waterfowl. Many participate in the waterfowl hunting program held on designated areas of the refuges. Visitors often ask why hunting is permitted on the refuges and are unfamiliar with the ways in which the hunting community benefits the Complex. In fact, hunting has been a significant aspect of local history since the 1880s when European settlers began extensively hunting the Colusa Plains. Today, this rich hunting culture is necessary for the success of conservation efforts on the Complex and on refuges across the United States.

Hunters and hunting organizations play an integral part in conservation nationwide. National and state non-profit hunting organizations raise millions of dollars for conservation and build, maintain, and improve thousands of habitat acres each year. Hunters also often lead conservation movements in our national and state capitals. The Pittman-Robertson Act, which imposed an 11% tax on hunting equipment and ammunition, was widely supported by hunters. This tax raises nearly \$86 million each year, which is distributed to state agencies for wildlife management programs, purchase of wildlife habitat, and hunter education and safety classes. In addition, sales collected from hunting licenses, tags, and stamps—about \$185 million per year in license fees—make up the majority of funding for most state wildlife conservation efforts.

One of the stamps required for waterfowl hunting, the Federal Duck Stamp, is an irreplaceable resource to the National Refuge System. Waterfowl hunters are required by law to purchase the \$15 stamp—which increases to \$25 as of July 2015—every year. Wildlife observers and other conservationists also contribute to this program by purchasing the stamp, which can be found at the Complex visitor center, the U.S. Postal Service, and most major sporting goods stores. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar raised by Federal Duck Stamp sales are designated to purchase or lease wildlife habitat. So far stamp sales have generated over \$700 million since 1934. These sales have allowed the National Refuge System to procure and maintain over 5.2 million acres of habitat, benefiting hundreds of species including dozens of threatened and endangered species. Colusa, Delevan and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges—13,545 acres of vital wetland habitat—were purchased with funds from from this program.

For year-round habitat, wildlife depends not only on state and federal areas, but also on local private lands and easements which are often used for hunting during waterfowl season. Even with over 35,000 acres of habitat, the Complex relies on its neighbors and surrounding fields to help feed the millions of migrating waterfowl, especially toward the end of the season when refuge food sources are depleted. In times of drought, this additional food source is invaluable. These fields have also improved wetland habitat in the Sacramento Valley by providing more space. Twenty to twenty-five years ago, waterfowl had only the Complex and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area for local habitat and thousands were lost to disease which spread rapidly in close quarters. Currently, the number of birds lost to spread of disease is significantly down because migrating waterfowl get the additional space they need from these private lands and easements. The positive year-round contribution these hunting grounds provide for waterfowl is undeniable.

Government agencies also work diligently each year to ensure that hunting programs are run conscientiously. State and Federal biologists and managers collaborate to establish hunting regulations annually; they determine which species can be hunted and in what quantity, based on breeding population surveys and assessment of the habitat's ability to sustain the population each year. Hunters are also required in nearly all states, including California, to take hunter education programs which promote safety, teach wildlife ecology and management, and encourage responsible behavior. Many hunters are willing to comply with these codes and regulations, as hunting classes teach them the importance of sustaining the population, as well as negative effects and consequences of irresponsible hunting. Negligent hunters can be fined heavily, lose their hunting license, get kicked off the refuge for a year (which have sometimes lead to hunters crying!), and even be subject to jail time if they violate regulations which are specifically designed to protect wildlife populations.

Given this information, it is clear that hunting and conservation are not mutually exclusive. The Complex depends upon and works in collaboration with waterfowl hunters to provide ample wetland habitat and additional resources for the benefit of local wildlife. Hunters and hunting organizations contribute a great deal of time, land and funding to aid conservation efforts at the Complex and across the United States.

# *Bird Walk* and *Birding Trip*

## REPORTS

November 15, 2014

### GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE AREA

Trip Leaders: Gaylord Grams and Kathy Trevino

A group of twenty-five people joined Gaylord and me for this trip to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. The group included Nancy Nelson, Annette Carey, Mary Wrynski, Claire Greene, Audrey Leff, Ingrid Gaston, Dave Fundakowski, Carol Anderson, Diego Bustamante, Rudy Bustamante, Susan Van Horn, Liz Webster, Calvin Hamilton, Tom & Trish Reilly, Steve Crump, Hilary Locke, Navit Reid, Joyce Bond, Jerry Dirnberger, Andy & Claudia Hanson, Scott Huber, and Jodee Binks and her son, Collin Wolff. It was a bit foggy when we arrived around 9:00, but before long, the sun was out and it turned into a beautiful day.

Starting the day off right as we drove in from Pennington Road, Claire and Mary saw a **Great Blue Heron**, and Scott, Nancy, and I spotted a **Merlin**. From the parking area, Diego scanned the first pond with his scope and immediately located a **Eurasian Wigeon**. We then proceeded down the path heading south and found **Red-tailed Hawk, House Finch, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Northern Mockingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Turkey Vulture, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Flicker, California Quail, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Anna's Hummingbird**. On the water we spotted **American Coot, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, and Cinnamon, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal. Sandhill Cranes** announced their presence, and we all got to see them as they flew over.

Near the southeast corner, several in the group spotted a **Great Horned Owl** before it flew off. **Bushtits** were also found here. Continuing east, we found **Black-necked Stilt, Marsh Wren, Snow Goose** (including a blue morph spotted flying over), **Greater White-fronted Goose, Bufflehead, European Starling, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Song Sparrow, Nuttall's Woodpecker, and Western Scrub-Jay**. Past the second blind, we had some decent looks at **Ross's Geese**.

As we headed toward the viewing platform, we added **Northern Harrier, Tree Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, and Downy Woodpecker**. From the platform, Hilary spotted a North American River Otter and others identified **Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, House Wren, and Fox Sparrow**. In a pond on the walk back, Diego reported seeing a **Common Gallinule**.

After returning to the parking area, some headed home and some ate lunch at the picnic tables. Then, some of us drove the auto tour route before heading out. Nancy and I decided to do the auto tour route and spotted a couple of **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and also added **Ruddy Duck, Eared Grebe, and Herring Gull** to our list. Nancy was also able to find a blue morph Snow Goose in one of the last ponds, which was a nice way to end the day.

We had 56 avian species, the otter, and a couple of Black-tailed Jackrabbits. It was a great day outdoors seeing the spectacle of what nature has to offer this time of year in our little corner of the world.



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Nov 15, 2014, photo by Andy Hanson

November 16, 2014

## ALTACAL RAPTOR RUN

Trip Leaders: Matt Forster and Mary Muchowski

Report by Kathy Trevino

**M**att Forster and Mary Muchowski led this mobile field trip in search of raptors. Due to the time of year, many waterfowl were also observed. Several joined them in their quest including Jon Aull, Sue & Ken Capie, Jerry Dirnberger, Hilary Locke, David Neilsen, Joseph O'Neil, Mauricio Schrader, and me. With a meet-up time of 8:00, the morning started off quite chilly with a strong breeze contributing to the discomfort, but before long the wind died down and the sun lent us its warmth.

Our first destination was Cottonwood Road between Hwy 99 and Hwy 70. On our way there, we noticed **American Crows, Common Ravens, a Northern Harrier, Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Tundra Swans**. Once on Cottonwood Road, raptors found included **White-tailed Kites** (one of which hovered over an orchard and dove for prey), a **Peregrine Falcon** perched atop a transmission tower, **American Kestrels**, several **Bald Eagles** (including 3-4 perched in a distant tree), a **Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures**. Also seen were **Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Western Meadowlark, White-faced Ibis, Least Sandpiper, American Pipit, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, Great and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Heron, European Starling, American Goldfinch, Say's and Black Phoebes, Northern Pintail, and Savannah, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows**. In addition, there were thousands of geese and swans that repeatedly lifted off as we explored this road. It was quite the experience!

Moving on, we turned south on Table Mountain Blvd. and spotted **Lesser Goldfinch and Rock Pigeon**. Heading west on Nelson Avenue, we found **Western Scrub-Jay, Northern Mockingbird, and Horned Larks** in Nelson Avenue Middle School's athletic field. We stopped at the bridge over the Thermalito Forebay and scoped both sides of the bridge finding **Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Mallard, Canvasback,**



White-tailed Kite  
Nov 16, 2014  
Photos by  
David Neilsen

**Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser, American Coot, Ruddy Duck, and House Sparrow**. As we continued onto the gravel portion of Nelson Avenue, **Canada Geese** flew over and while viewing an **American Kestrel**, a mature **Bald Eagle** flew into our field of view. We spotted a male **Northern Harrier** here also.



From here, it was decided that we should head south of Wilbur Road. It turned out to be a great decision as we discovered three **Prairie Falcons** in short order. Two of them put on quite the display for us, although we were unsure if it was motivated by love or something else. From there, we turned right on Tres Vias Road and Matt spotted a **Red-shouldered Hawk**. We continued south on Wilbur Road past Hwy 162 to the Oroville Wildlife Area on the edge of the Thermalito Afterbay. Here we found **Double-crested Cormorant, House Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Flicker, Dark-eyed Junco, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, and an unidentified gull species**.

It was about 12:30 and some of us needed to get back by 1:00, so we headed back to Chico. Mary spotted a **Burrowing Owl** on the way, and some stopped at the Afterbay on the way back and found **Horned, Eared, Western, and Clark's Grebes**. We had a total species count of 64 and a great experience finding them.

# Christmas BIRD COUNT RESULTS

December 20, 2014

## CHICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

COMPILER: Mary Muchowski

Thirty dedicated birders came out to volunteer for the annual Chico Christmas Bird Count. Despite the off-and-on rain, we counted 18,259 birds representing 123 species! This year some of the highlights included 25 **Sora** seen and/or heard at the Oxidation Ponds, along with 2 **American Bitterns** and 4 **Virginia Rails**. The group covering CSU, Chico and Lower Bidwell Park saw a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and one **Evening Grosbeak**. The Upper Park North group got good looks at a **White-throated Sparrow**. We also had pretty high counts for some birds that we usually don't see in these numbers, including 255 **Steller's Jays**, 387 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, and 76 **Varied Thrushes**. This year is considered an "irruption" year for Steller's Jays over a lot of the state. The **European Starling** wins for highest number (1,424), followed by **White-crowned Sparrow** (1,146), **Lesser Goldfinch** (1,013), and **Dark-eyed Juncos** (1,010). Once again, we had a great group of folks and we all enjoyed the camaraderie and the tallying of our birds at Woodstock's Pizza after the count. Thanks to all the participants (especially those on the wet walking routes)!

December 28, 2014

## OROVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

COMPILER: Gaylord Grams

Twenty-four people showed up to help with the annual Oroville Christmas Bird Count. 27,738 birds of 126 species were counted on this mostly sunny day. It started out cold but warmed up as the day wore on, making it a great day for birding. We had potential record highs for the Oroville CBC of 432 **Bufflehead**, 82 **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 15 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**. Species seen that are not included on the regular data sheet include one **Great-tailed Grackle**, 12 **White-Faced Ibis**, 40 **White-throated Swifts** and 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** (seen at the Oroville Wildlife Area by Steve King and his group). **European Starlings** take the high number in this count with 4,115, unless you add all the blackbirds together for a total of 5,774 (132 **Tricolored**, 337 **Red-winged**, 1,626 **Brewer's**, 31 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and 3,648 Blackbird species). As usual we met at Gaylord's house for the delicious enchilada dinner (thanks Annette!) and the compilation. We had a really awesome group of birders again this year, and we want to offer a big thank you to everyone who participated!

## Bird Walk and Birding Trip REPORT

January 11, 2015

### LLANO SECO UNIT

Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski & Joseph O'Neil

About 20 people came to view the ducks and geese at the Llano Seco Unit. There weren't as many ducks near the first viewing platform as usual, and many were sleeping, but we got good looks at **Northern Pintail**, **Northern Shovelers**, **American** and **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Ruddy Ducks**, and **Bufflehead**. We also saw a few flocks of **Dunlin** flying from island to island. On the way to the back platform we saw **Greater Yellowlegs**, **American Pipit**, **Black Phoebe**, **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **Western Meadowlarks**. From the back platform we found four **Bald Eagles** (one adult, one 3-yr bird and two "white-belly" phase), some of which appeared to have a fresh kill. We also got some good looks at **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Sandhill Cranes**. A few times the massive numbers of **Snow/Ross'** and **Greater White-fronted Geese** (which were completely covering the field near Ord Bend Rd and 7 Mile Lane) got up all at once and flew around noisily. Some broke off and came south to Llano Seco Unit. It was a beautiful day for bird-watching.





# Local Chapter Membership Application

*Please join us!*

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL HELP  
ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT WORK.

Altacal Audubon Society (AAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. AAS is a separately incorporated non-profit organization with a local chapter membership. 100% of membership dues goes to support local projects and activities. AAS is an all-volunteer organization that conducts all of its programs with unpaid staff.

We offer regularly scheduled **field trips** that focus on birds and bird habitats; membership **programs** with media presentations on birds and related topics; a bi-monthly **newsletter**, the White-tailed Kite; **website** [www.altacal.org/](http://www.altacal.org/); and **advocacy** to protect and conserve local habitats as well as special projects and programs.

## Submission of Articles to the *White-tailed Kite*

Articles for publication should be sent to Denise Devine by email to [dsrdevine@hotmail.com](mailto:dsrdevine@hotmail.com) on the first of the month, prior to the next issue.

THANKS to all of you who contribute regularly by sending in reports, articles and photos for the White-tailed Kite – Denise, Editor.



## OTHER ALTACAL ACTIVITIES

Major sponsor, participant and fiscal agent for the annual  
**SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL**

Founder and ongoing supporter of the  
**CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER**

Sponsor of the City of Chico  
**OXIDATION PONDS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Leading annual **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**  
in Chico and Oroville for over 55 years

Focusing on our **YOUTH** through  
**SCHOLARSHIPS** and **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Advocating for **BIRDS** and **WILDLIFE**  
when they are threatened

Conducting surveys and participating in  
**AVIAN RESEARCH PROJECTS**

## ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- |                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Basic   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student / Low Income   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Additional Donation |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |                                     |                                  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Save Paper! Send me an email only             | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> email me <i>Altacal in Action Alerts</i>      |                                     |                                  |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would be interested in volunteering to help | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash       | <input type="checkbox"/> Check   | Date _____                    |

**IMPORTANT:** Membership in Altacal Audubon Society does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. We encourage you to also support National Audubon in their important education and lobbying efforts. To join the National Audubon Society contact them at their website [www.audubon.org/](http://www.audubon.org/)

Please make check payable to ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Mail to AAS, P.O. BOX 3671, CHICO, CA 95927-3671

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CURRENT RESIDENT



## *White-tailed Kite*

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Feb	7	Chico Oxidation Ponds
Feb	8	Genetic Resource Center
Feb	16	Program - <i>California Spiders</i>
Feb	28	Indian Fisheries and Washout
Mar	1	Genetic Resource Center
Mar	6 - 8	Honey Lake
Mar	16	Program - <i>South-east Brazil</i>
Mar	29	Table Mountain

For updated information check the Altacal website  
[altacal.org](http://altacal.org)

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## **ALTACAL Programs**



Feb 16

**California Spiders**

Mar 16

**South-east Brazil**

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# ALTACAL

Mission: To promote the awareness, appreciation and protection of native birds and their habitats through education, research and environmental activities.