



White-tailed Kite

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016

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.

October

Monday, October 17, 2016 6:30 p.m.
Chico Creek Nature Center

Birding Inspirations Through My Lens

Presented by JEFFREY RICH

Wildlife Photographer Jeffrey Rich will be presenting his new program, Birding Inspirations Through My Lens, based on his newest book, *The Complete Guide to Bird Photography*. Jeff will be sharing stories of birds and Mother Nature. He adds in a few photography tips and how lying in the dirt helps to create his amazing photography. He will be signing books after the show. Special price for the night \$28. (continued on page 2.)



November

Monday, November 21, 2016 6:30 p.m.
Chico Creek Nature Center

Birds of the SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO

Presented by CATHERINE and BILL CAMP



Catherine and Bill Camp, members of Wintu Audubon, just returned from a trip to the High Arctic. They joined a National Geographic/Linblad Expedition cruise in an ice-enabled ship. They were able to drift past icebergs and walk on newly ice-free land. They will bring photos of the birds of the Svalbard Archipelago, Eastern Greenland and Iceland, as well as polar bears, walrus, whales and lots of ice! (continued on page 2.)

ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors

President	STEVE OVERLOCK 530 828-0966 stephenoverlock@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	KEN SOBON 530 592-3350 ksobon@thermalito.org
Secretary	CRIS CLINE ccline1028@gmail.com
Treasurer	VACANT
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Publicity / Web Site	WAYLAND AUGUR 519-4724 wba@acm.org
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Director - at-Large	MARILYN GAMETTE 343-3154 gamettec@aol.com
Director - at-Large	VACANT

October (continued from page 1.)

Jeffrey Rich graduated from Humboldt State University in 1983 with a BS in Wildlife biology, in 1985 with a BS in Biology, and a life science teaching credential in 1986. In 2012 Jeff completed his master's degree in science teaching and education at the University of Texas. Jeff has been teaching science and photography, and photographing nature professionally since 1987. He is currently teaching at Stellar Charter School in Redding, CA.

Jeff's love of the outdoors stems from his northern California upbringing. This enjoyment of nature, with his biological background has proved to be a perfect compliment in producing stunning nature photographs and teaching others about wildlife and nature photography. A self-taught nature photographer, Jeff considers himself more of a photo-naturalist, producing artful images of Mother Nature. He is a wildlife and bird photography specialist with photos published in National Wildlife, National Geographic, Audubon and many other publications.

Jeff has also written a number of articles about wildlife and birds. His first book, *Baby Birds*, is the topic of one of his photographic passions, published by Rio Nuevo. His second book released in April 2016, *The Complete Guide to Bird Photography*, helps anyone improve their wildlife photos. Jeff has been teaching nature photo workshops and tours since February 1991 and these are always a great adventure with wonderful photo opportunities. He is a perfect nature photography instructor with his extensive background as a naturalist, teacher and nature photographer. Join Jeff and become a photonaturalist.

November (continued from page 1.)

Catherine is retired from a career providing policy analysis and legislative advocacy for children's services and public mental health programs. Bill is retired from a career as a labor organizer. They have returned from Sacramento to eastern Shasta County, to country where they lived in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They are delighted to have more time for travel, birds and nurturing grandchildren.

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



GREETINGS MEMBERS,

As Fall arrives, it is once again time to review Altacal's past year fiscally and otherwise then take a look forward at 2016-2017. Altacal received approximately \$30,000 from a number of sources over the last fiscal year. These include a substantial amount of restricted funds from a Grebe Grant, funds from donations to the Neighborhood Habitat Program and the Owl Banding (Adopt an Owl) Program and funds from the SNWR for Altacal's help with the retailing of products at their bookstore.

Nearly a quarter of this income came from memberships and donations. Altacal thanks you very much. There is approximately \$9000 of unrestricted funds currently in the checking account.

Altacal uses membership funds and donations to promote and sponsor a wide range of conservation efforts. These include Birding Festivals and Symposiums; a Tri-Colored Blackbird Monitoring effort as the TRBL is one of a number of birds that are losing ground, literally and quickly right here; and for support in advancing BMP for nesting birds as it relates to arborist and tree trimming companies. And, of course, Altacal regularly supports local conservation groups and efforts as well, most notably is the Snow Goose Festival.

And this year Altacal will be sending a few Board Members to an Assembly at Yosemite. It is hosted by Audubon California and will present an opportunity to draw chapter leaders from all across the state together for sharing ideas and learning new ways to promote for the birds and their habitat.

Finally, though it is not official as I write this, it more than likely will be by the time you read it: we welcome Ken Sobon, Vice President; Cris Cline Secretary; and Steve Overlock, President to another two-year term as elected Board members. As I write, Altacal continues to seek a Treasurer. (The voting will have taken place at our September Program.)

That wraps up Altacal's year-end report. So much accomplished and so much more to do. We welcome comments and suggestions and all members are welcome at every Board Meeting the second Tuesday of each month.

Thank you again and Happy Birding Steve O

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the 18th Annual **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL** of the Pacific Flyway
January 25 - 29, 2017

PLEASE CALL Jennifer Patten for further information at 345-9356 or jpchico@sbcglobal.net.

UPCOMING

Birding Trips

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

October 2, Sunday

FEATHER RIVER KAYAK AND BIRD TRIP

Trip Leaders: Gaylord Grams and Ken Sobon

Join us for a beautiful kayaking trip down the Feather River. Please bring your own kayak, life jacket, lunch and plenty of water as we meander our way down the river in search for salmon and birds! Meet under Table Mountain Bridge St. bridge in Oroville (the fish hatchery) at 9 am. We'll then shuttle some of the cars to the finishing spot and carpool back to the starting spot. This trip will last 5 hours. Please contact Gaylord Grams at 530-533-1624 or Ken at ksobon@thermalito.org if you are interested in going.

October 8, Saturday

BIRDS OF UPPER BIDWELL PARK – YAH! TRAIL

Trip Leader: Wyatt Hersey

We'll meet at Parking Lot E, just past the gun club and walk up to Day Camp. All birders and nature lovers are welcome, especially those just learning about birds or wanting to learn about the birds of Bidwell Park. 8 -11 am. Bring binoculars (some will be available to borrow), water, and snack. Contact Wyatt Hersey at skateyono@gmail.com .

October 9, Sunday

CSUC BUTTE CREEK ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Trip Leader: Joseph O'Neil, Certified Arborist

We'll explore the native trees, shrubs and spring migrant birds of Butte Creek. This is a 2-3 mile intermediate hike along the creek, over some logs, and down to the pond. Green Heron, Wood Ducks, Common Merganser, Hairy Woodpecker and Cooper's Hawks have been some of the many species seen here. Beavers, otters and jumping salmon may also be seen. Wear sturdy shoes / boots and bring water and snacks for a 3 hour hike. Meet at the parking lot of the preserve at 8 am, on Honey Run Road about 3 miles off the Skyway, just past 1182. Contact Joseph O'Neil at josephoneil@earthlink.net.



Sandhill Cranes at Chico Oxidation Ponds
September 14, 2016 by Matt Forster

October 15, Saturday

CHICO WTP – OXIDATION PONDS

Trip Leaders: Matt Forster and Diego Bustamante

We'll get a personal and up close view of the winter waterfowl migration at the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, west of Chico. We'll have a first hand look at the returning birds from Alaska and Canada, Northern Pintail, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and possibly some unexpected migrants. The walk is under 2 miles and 3 hours. For shorter, you can walk out to the viewing blind. The walk is flat and pretty easy-going. Meet at the Oxidation Pond parking area at 9 am. We should be back to the lot by 12 pm. To get to the Oxidation Ponds, go west on W 5th St from Hwy 32 in Chico. Follow W 5th St, which becomes Chico River Rd, for 3.9 miles. The wildlife viewing parking area is 300 yards past the main entrance to the water treatment plant, on the left. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, water, walking shoes and proper clothing for the expected weather conditions. There is a chemical toilet on the way out to the viewing area. Rain cancels. Matthew Forster, findforster@yahoo.com

November 5 Saturday

CHICO WTP – OXIDATION PONDS

Trip Leaders: Wyatt Hersey and Matt Forster

We'll get a personal and up close view of the winter waterfowl migration at the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, west of Chico. We'll have a first hand look at the returning birds from Alaska and Canada, Northern Pintail, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and possibly some unexpected migrants. The walk is under 2 miles and 3 hours. For shorter, you can walk out to the viewing blind. The walk is flat and pretty easy-going. Meet at the Oxidation Pond parking area at 9 am. We should be back to the lot by 12pm. To get to the Oxidation Ponds, go west on W 5th St from Hwy 32 in Chico. Follow W 5th St, which becomes Chico River Rd, for 3.9 miles. The wildlife viewing parking area is 300 yards past the main entrance to the water treatment plant, on the left. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, water, walking shoes and proper clothing for the expected weather conditions. There is a chemical toilet on the way out to the viewing area. Rain cancels. Matthew Forster, findforster@yahoo.com or Wyatt Hersey, skateyono@gmail.com .

November 12, Saturday

GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE AREA #1

Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams

Join Altacal for a walking tour at Gray Lodge. We'll walk the two-mile trail that includes the bird blinds after scoping the pond by parking lot #14. Fall migration should be well underway. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride (lot closest to freeway) at 8 am sharp, car-pool from there, and return by 3 pm. If you would prefer, meet us at Gray Lodge (parking lot #14) at 9 am. Bring a lunch, water, \$4 per person entry fee, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. For more information contact Kathy Trevino at kathytrev@sbcglobal.net or 530-520-2872, or Gaylord Grams at 530-533-1624.

November 13, Sunday

LLANO SECO VIEWING PLATFORM BIG SIT

Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Give your legs a rest and your eyes a treat on this leisurely morning at Llano Seco viewing platform. Bring your lawn chair, binoculars, and snacks, sit back and relax as the birds come to you. You'll learn to identify the waterfowl species that frequent this idyllic setting. Meet at Llano Seco Viewing Platform at 9 am. Contact trip leader Matthew Forster @ 619-347-2269 or findforster@yahoo.com or Mary Muchowski at mmuchowski@earthlink.net



Pectoral Sandpiper at Chico Oxidation Ponds on September 12, 2016 by Matt Forster

ALTACAL *Sightings*



Willow Flycatcher at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
September 5, 2016 by Matt Forster



Summer Tanager at Red Bluff Recreation Area
August 19, 2016 by Dylis Woletz

Bird Walk and *Birding Trip* **REPORT**

July 15-17 2016

JUNIPER LAKE CAMP OUT

Trip leaders Joseph O'Neil and Gaylord Grams

The Audubon group arrived on opening day for camping on Juniper Lake and secured 5 sites. We enjoyed wonderful weather and great potluck dinners. We birded, kayaked and hiked the general area. 15 people participated and **42 bird species** were identified. Of special interest were: **Sooty Grouse**, **Black-backed Woodpeckers**, **Evening Grosbeaks**, a flock of **Gray Jays**, and in the camping area **Williamson's Sapsuckers**, a nesting pair of **Calliope Hummingbirds**, a dozen **Western Tanagers** and constant **Hermit Warbler** activity. ... Thanks to Kathy Trevino for tabulating our bird count.

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/; 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 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/

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

ALTACAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC
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Requested
In-home Delivery
9/28 - 30/2016
3-Day Window

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 86
Chico, Calif. 95927

CURRENT RESIDENT



White-tailed Kite

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct	2	Feather River Kayak
Oct	8	Bidwell Park - Yahai Trail
Oct	9	Butte Creek Preserve
Oct	15	Chico Oxidation Ponds
Oct	17	Program - <i>Through My Lens</i>
Nov	5	Chico Oxidation Ponds
Nov	12	Gray Lodge Wildlife Area
Nov	13	Llano Seco
Nov	21	Program - <i>Svalbard Archipelago</i>

For updated information check the Altacal website
altacal.org

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

ALTACAL Program



October 17

Through My Lens

November 21

**SVALBARD
ARCHIPELAGO**

ALTACAL

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