

2015 Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway



Your Official Guide



**Wednesday – Sunday,
January 21-25, 2015
Chico, CA**

www.snowgoosefestival.org

*Welcome to the 16th Annual Snow
Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway*

Millions of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months, creating ample viewing opportunities for bird and nature enthusiasts of all ages. You are invited to join us at the 16th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway, one of the premier birding events in California, for an action-packed five days celebrating this annual phenomenon.

Snow Goose Festival Welcome Center

Chico Creek Nature Center, 1968 E. 8th Street, Chico
Wednesday – Friday, Jan. 21 – 23, 11am – 4pm

Snow Goose Festival Headquarters

Chico Masonic Family Center 1110 W. East Ave., Chico
Saturday, Jan. 24, 6am – 5pm
Sunday, Jan. 25, 7am – 3pm

Photo by Steve McDonald

Thanks to All Our 2015 Sponsors!

Major Sponsors – Snow Goose (\$2,500 or more)



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Chico News & Review



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Western Canal Water District

Snowy Egret (\$250 or more)

Chico Chamber of Commerce
The Lady Bug Ranch

White-faced Ibis (\$100 or more)

Baker's Birkenstock
Butte Environmental Council
Mountain Sports
Sacramento River Discovery Center

DIRECTIONS TO FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

Avenue 9 Gallery & Art Guild (A9)

180 E. 9th Ave., Chico
530-879-1821

There is ample free parking on the corner of 9th Avenue and Oleander for the Friday January 29 Art Reception.

Bell Memorial Union, CSU, Chico (BMU)

Corner of 2nd & Chestnut St., Chico
530-898-4636

Directions: From U.S. Hwy 99, take the East First Avenue Exit. Proceed west on East First Avenue following signs to the campus. After approximately 1.5 miles, turn left on Esplanade, drive into downtown Chico. Turn right at 2nd St, then three blocks to corner of 2nd St & Chestnut St. If coming from Hwy 32, turn east at the W. 2nd St stoplight. The BMU is on the left, six blocks on the corner of 2nd & Chestnut St. FREE PARKING on weekends at Chico State's parking structure and on lots across the street from the BMU.

Chico Creek Nature Center (CcNc)

1968 E. 8th Street, Chico
Phone: 530-891-4671

Email: info@bidwellpark.org

Directions from Chico: From Hwy 99 take the Hwy 32 Chester Exit #385. Head northeast on CA-32 East toward Chester/E 9th St. Take a left on Fir St. Fir St. turns into E. 8th St. The CCNC will be ¼ of a mile on the left.

Chico Grange Hall

2775 (Old) Nord Ave., Chico
(530) 895-1976

Directions: Heading west on East Ave, take the first right after the Chico Masonic Family Center on to Nord Ave. Chico Grange is on left.

Chico Masonic Family Center (CMFC)

1110 W. East Avenue, Chico

Directions from Chico: From Hwy 99, take the East Avenue exit. (This is two exits north of the East 1st Avenue exit.) Turn west on East Avenue. The CMFC is approximately 1.5 miles from the Hwy 99 exit, on the right (north) side of East Avenue. If coming from Nord Avenue on Hwy 32, turn east at the W. East Avenue stoplight. The CMFC is on the left, approximately 2 miles from the Hwy 32 and East Avenue intersection.

Gridley McDonalds (GMcDo)

1513 State Hwy 99, Gridley
530-846-3222

Directions from Chico: Take Hwy 99 South to Gridley. McDonalds is in a shopping center on the west side of Hwy 99 in Gridley. Driving time and distance from Chico: 35 minutes, 29 miles.

Patrick Ranch (PR)

10381 Midway, Durham
530-342-4359

Directions: Between Chico and Durham Take Park Ave Exit off Hwy 99 Turn Right onto E Park Ave. Turn left onto Midway. Travel about 2.8 miles turn right after white picket fence.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR)

752 County Road 99W, Willows
(530) 934-2801

Directions: Located south of Willows off Interstate 5. Please call the Refuge for directions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Online Registration:

Closes at 12:00pm

Wednesday, January 21!

www.snowgoosefestival.org

Walk-In Registration:

May be available for some events Thursday – Friday at the Snow Goose Festival Welcome Center and Saturday – Sunday at the Chico Masonic Family Center, but cannot be guaranteed. For further information on registration please call **530-345-1865**.

Cancellation Policy: No cancellations or refunds will be available online. To cancel and receive a refund, minus a processing fee, you must call or email the Snow Goose Festival office by Monday, January 12, 2015. Beginning Tuesday, January 13, no cancellations or "no shows" will be refunded. If for any reason the Snow Goose Festival cancels an event, a full refund will be available.

16th Annual Snow Goose Festival

FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Thursday, January 22 FIELD TRIPS

Marathon Big Day Birding in Colusa County **NEW**

Thu 6:00 am - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

This is a fast-paced, non-stop, wide-ranging adventure! In Colusa Co. expect to see a wide variety of waterfowl, in Bear Valley, we'll watch for raptors and grassland species. East Park Reservoir will provide looks at numerous waterbirds. Expect to see 60-80 or more species on this fun, fast-paced adventure! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. A\$30 Level 4

Marathon Big Day Birding in Butte County **SOLD OUT**

Thu 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail **NEW**

Thu 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Starting at Horseshoe Lake, hike 4 miles of the Yahi Trail along Big Chico Creek. This stretch of rich riparian habitat provides some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. Common sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Many other species are possible, and it's always worth a walk down this trail to find out! Wear comfortable hiking shoes and layers, bring water and snacks. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Paskenta's C & R Ranch (includes lunch)

Thu 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

The C&R ranch captures the beauty of the coast range foothills and North Valley panorama. The Blue Oak/Valley Oak woodlands and grasslands host a variety of birds like Western Bluebird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark, Golden and Bald Eagles, and American Kestrel. Lunch will be provided by C&R Ranch. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. A\$35 - Y\$15 Level 3

Winter Raptors

Thu 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural

LEGEND:

The following rating system for field trips will give you an idea for the rigors involved.

Level 1: Mostly birding by car and/or easy walking

Level 2: Walking, could involve distance but largely flat

Level 3: More vigorous hiking, some elevation gain/loss

Level 4: A true adventure trip, lots of driving and hiking

 Wheelchair accessible



Pacific Flyway Wildlife Art Exhibit & Reception

Each year this amazing exhibit features wildlife and habitat along the Pacific Flyway, and includes the work of numerous artists in a variety of media, including sculpture, clay, oils, fiber arts, watercolor, acrylics, mixed media, glass, and photography. Enjoy refreshments, live music, and a no-host bar at the reception. Bring a friend and meet the artists, along with festival participants.

AVENUE 9 GALLERY & ART GUILD

180 E. 9th Avenue (at the Esplanade), Chico

Exhibit: Jan. 16 - Feb. 7, 2015

Free Reception: Friday, Jan. 23, 2015,

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friday, January 23 FIELD TRIPS

Marathon Big Day Birding in Glenn County **NEW**

Fri 6:30 am - 5:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Let the birding begin! For all you county listers, here a great chance to break your milestone for Glenn County. We will be birding sunup to sundown and will scour the county floor and foothills for resident birds and rarities. Carpooling is mandatory. Please bring lunch, snacks, water, binoculars, and prepare to eat in the car while traveling to different locations. Come help us break the record for the highest number of species seen (well over 100) on this full day extravaganza. A \$30 - Y\$10 Level 4

Table Mountain/ Coal Canyon Falls Hike **NEW**

Fri 7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

We will bird while hiking to one of Butte County's best waterfalls, hoping to see raptors, Horned Lark, oak woodland species, and explore some geologic sites. This is a strenuous hike over uneven terrain, which includes some rock scrambling and small stream crossings. Expect muddy boots. Bring snacks, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 4

Sutter Buttes Hike: Dean Ranch

Fri 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gritley McDonalds

Enjoy a three-mile walk to visit the 100-year-old Dean Place Cattle Ranch. This trip will focus primarily on birding with hopes of seeing Golden Eagles, Phainopepla, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, so bring binoculars along with lunch and water. No early departures on this trip. Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gritley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Digiscoping Workshop/Field Trip

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

You will spend time in the classroom to help you make some preliminary camera settings. Then we will step outside and get some bird photos. Bruce will work with participants on topics such as: choosing the best camera mounting options, shooting tips, techniques in the field, and using a Digital SLR behind the scope eyepiece. Participants are encouraged to bring their spotting scopes and digital still cameras. We will spend about 3 hours. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 1

Riparian Ecology Tour at Willow Bend **NEW**

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

Work on your Colusa County bird list while touring a 145 acre private property along the Sacramento River. The tour will focus on floodplain salmon research, water policy issues, riparian restoration and ecology, and of course, bird watching. Chico based River Partners owns the property which has been the site of native grass restoration, and is the future planting site for a mixed riparian forest. We'll hike the property, enjoy the river, and see some great birds. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

"Gathering of Wings"

BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, January 24, 2015 5:30 - 10:00 pm

Bell Memorial Union Auditorium, CSU, Chico, CA

Corner of 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Chico, CA

Cost per Person: \$38 Adult, \$20 Youth (17 years and younger) and students with ID

Beer & Wine (No Host)

Don't miss the biggest event of the Snow Goose Festival, our Gathering of Wings Banquet. This treasured evening is a mix of great food, great company and great entertainment and is anticipated by many as the one chance per year they have to visit and catch up with fellow birders and friends in the community. Join field trip leaders, workshop presenters and all our hard-working committee members and volunteers in celebrating this special evening.



Keynote Speaker

Scott Weidensaul, Renowned Naturalist and Author

"Living on the Wind: The Miracle of Bird Migration"

Since the dawn of human imagination, we have been spellbound by the migration of birds, in which even the smallest species traverse immensities of space the way we cross the street. New research continually expands our understand of where birds travel, and their migratory feats. But while the populations of many migratory birds are in drastic decline, there are many things we can do to save them. Naturalist and author Scott Weidensaul explores the wonder and mechanics of migration, and the simple, effective ways we can preserve them, from what we plant in our gardens to what we pour into our morning mug of coffee.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind," about bird migration, and "Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul." His newest book, "The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America," was published in 2012. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon magazine and writes for a variety of other publications; he lives in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, where he studies the migration of hawks, owls and hummingbirds.

Silent Auction

Begins at 5:30 p.m.

The vibrant Silent Auction tables will accompany us while we dine at the BMU, and will include a variety of exquisite items including works of artwork, photos, wine, and services so generously donated by businesses, organizations and members of our community. Your financial participation directly affects our ability to ensure that the Snow Goose Festival remains the North State's premier birding event, so enjoy the evening bidding for an event or item that you love. You won't be disappointed!

Sutter Buttes Hike: State Park's Peace Valley

Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Explore California State Park's Peace Valley in the Sutter Buttes. It will be like stepping back in time as you learn about Peace Valley's natural and cultural history. This is an undeveloped area, so wear comfortable walking shoes or boots. Bring a sack lunch and beverage. No early departures on this trip. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Sutter Buttes Hike: State Park's Peace Valley & "House Hill" **NEW**

Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Explore California State Park's Peace Valley in the Sutter Buttes. It will be like stepping back in time as you learn about Peace Valley's natural and cultural history. Our journey will include a climb to the top of "House Hill" where fantastic views of the valley and the surrounding buttes can be found. This is an undeveloped area, and this is a strenuous hike over some steep terrain so wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring a sack lunch and beverage. No early departures on this trip. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Fri 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Enjoy a bird walk through Bidwell Park with ornithologist and author of Birds of Bidwell Park, Roger Lederer, and his wife, Carol. Learn amazing facts about the birds of the park and how to identify them. Bidwell Park is a wonderful place to see birds because it is both semi-wild and very accessible. It is excellent birding for both the beginner and expert. This trip is also offered on Sunday. Sunday's trip is led by Roger and Scott Weidensaul. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 2

Feather River Birds & Fish Hatchery Tour

Fri 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Walk along the banks of the Feather River to view the waterfowl (goldeneye, bufflehead, merganser) and the winter residents (Phainopepla, woodpeckers, herons, egrets, and more). Then cross the river and receive a personal tour of the Oroville Fish Hatchery led by Jana Frazier of the Department of Water Resources. See and learn about the incredible life cycle of the salmon. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Fri 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

Wildlife, wintering waterfowl, and nature photography are exceptional at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, especially along the three-mile gravel auto tour, one-mile trail, and at their new observation deck. Spectacular flights of Snow Geese and Ross' Geese along with thousands of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, and Northern Shovelers can be seen in the marshes. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Dye Creek Preserve

Fri 8:45 am - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Visit the rugged Dye Creek Preserve in the Lassen Foothill region of eastern Tehama County. Hike the scenic Dye Creek Canyon and visit a stream-side restoration site. See birds common to oak woodlands such as the Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, and Oak Titmouse Ferruginous Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Golden Eagle may also be seen at the Preserve. Bring lunch and drink. Boots/sturdy footwear is a MUST! A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Birds & Rice Growers

Fri 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

Take this trip over to Richvale where Butte County Rice Growers Association, a farmer-owned cooperative founded in 1914, will provide a tour of the drying operations and the plant. Richvale is not only rich in rice farming history but also rich in wintering waterfowl on the flooded rice fields. Visible from the gravel roads, we'll see Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, ducks, and maybe even a Bald Eagle. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Foothill Birding & LaRocca Vineyards

Fri 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Enjoy the beauty of nature, sample award winning organic wines, and look for the birds of the foothills. Drive along Hwy 32, stopping to look for Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Steller's Jay, and Pileated Woodpecker. Then on to LaRocca Vineyards for a tour, chocolate, cheese, and wine tasting which includes their Sparkling wine. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy footwear for hiking. A\$32 Level 3

Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Fri 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

Leaving Chico in the early afternoon will give us plenty of time to stop and look for geese, swans, and cranes on our way to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. We will arrive at the refuge in time to witness thousands of birds in their spectacular "fly-off". Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. This trip is also offered on Thursday with a different leader. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Raptor Run thru Butte County

Fri 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural differences between species and discuss why some raptors have special features. By the end of the trip, everybody will know and appreciate more about each species. Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Thermalito Afterbay & Surrounding Grasslands

Fri 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

This hike along the north side of the Afterbay reservoir offers a great mix of habitat including open water, rice fields, short-grass plains, back-bays, and marsh. We hope to see a variety of waterfowl and raptors. Lots of open sky views. Bring food, good hiking gear, and all-weather clothing. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

A Chico Birding Hotspot! – Oxidation Ponds **NEW**

Fri 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Take a walk through the old Oxidation Ponds behind the Chico Water Treatment Plant. In the winter months, this area becomes a great place to see most of the waterfowl found in the valley. The habitat in and surrounding this area will bring many other species of birds as well. \$22 Level 2

Family Owl Prowl

Fri 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

This family-oriented field trip offers a unique glimpse into the amazing nocturnal world of owls. The Prowl, a leisurely hike into Bidwell Park, will start and end at the Chico Creek Nature Center. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 1

Friday, January 23 PRESENTATIONS/ WORKSHOPS

Bird Carving Seminar for Beginners

Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Patrick Ranch

Join master carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association for a five hour carving seminar. All of the necessary materials, including a study guide and the best knives on the market, will be provided. Short lectures with lots of hands-on carving will enable you to complete a Black Phoebe. Topics include where to get your supplies, how to use reference material, wood

FIELD TRIPS continued on page 6

FREE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 24-25, 2015

Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Ave. ● Chico Grange Hall, 2775 Nord Ave., Chico



SATURDAY & SUNDAY

The Maze of Maps

Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

This year we will feature an eclectic assortment of interesting maps from around the North Valley and beyond. Get the bird's eye view of our local landscape features. Stroll through maps in the CMFC hallway and let your curiosity take you on a tour.

Exhibits Galore & Vendors

Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Displays by State, Federal, and Non-profit organizations. Plus vendors selling everything from binoculars to bird books.

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Display

Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

All 100 California winners from nearly 2,000 entries will be on display. Don't forget to see the Chico winners.

Meet Smokey Bear and the Blue Goose

Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Smokey the Bear and the National Wildlife Refuge's Blue Goose will be visiting at various times courtesy of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Also be sure to visit the US Fish & Wildlife Service fire safety exhibit booth.

Birding by Boat & Boat

Sat. 9:00 am - 10:30 am; Sun. 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

The Sacramento River is a birder's paradise! Many public areas are accessible only by boat and are very wild due to the lack of car access. The Sacramento River is a major part of the Pacific Flyway and attracts migrating waterfowl to its waters each year and is also home to many endemic and annual species of birds like the rare Yellow-billed cuckoo. Join Lucas as he takes you on a guided virtual trip along the main stem of the Sacramento River both by boat and by foot.

Junior Naturalist Activities

Sat 10:00 am - 3:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 3:00pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Along with the Live Raptor Presentation, Meet Smokey Bear and Blue Goose, Junior Duck Stamp Display, children may earn a Junior Naturalist Certificate by participating in a few activities designed just for children. There will be nature crafts, opportunities to build bird feeders, make a bird call and much, much more!

Live Raptor Experience

Sat. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Come see the Center for Reconnecting with Nature's display of raptors and falconry. Live birds will be present and the Center will be sharing about their mission, which focuses on reconnecting both children and adults with nature. The exhibit will be open from 10am to noon and 1pm to 3pm.

California State Parks Presents: Indian Fishery Junior Ranger Program

Sat. 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Indian Fishery

You can become a Junior Ranger by joining Ranger Zack Chambers for an exciting adventure on a short interpretive hike through the oak woodlands and riparian

habitat at Indian Fishery. Participants will explore the relationship between the meandering river system and the ox-bow lake located at the park unit. Junior Rangers receive a Junior Ranger Log Book, a sticker, and the opportunity to earn many other awards. The hike is geared for children 7 - 12 years old but families are encouraged to attend. Meet ant Indian Fishery parking lot--West Sacramento Road and River Road. Limit 15 participants. To register, please call Ranger Zack Chambers at the ranger office (530) 342-5185.

Our Magnetic Sun and Solar Viewing

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 am

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Birds use the sun's polarized light as one of their tools to enable them to navigate during migration. Come learn more about our sun, sunspots, solar prominence, flares, and coronal mass ejections. Then we'll explore light using simple diffraction gratings. Finally, skies permitting, we'll go outside and do some solar viewing using a safe, dedicated solar telescope.

Web of Life

Sat. 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Youth ages 8-13 are welcome to help us investigate the "Web of Life" that exists in a rice field. We will come face to face with plants, insects, waterfowl, and predators! Hands on investigations include: how an animal's body gives clues to what it eats and how it survives; and how every plant and animal depend on each other for food and shelter. Participants will have the opportunity to build the rice field "Web of Life" and measure the impact of predators, including "man".

"Journey" Wolf Play & Storyteller

Sat. 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Chico Grange Hall

Enter a wolf's world with "Stories from the Wolf Den" by professional storyteller, Tom Wade. People who spend time with wolves, come away impressed by their friendliness and playfulness. He'll bring this side of wolves to life, sharing tales of their generosity, intelligence and uncanny intuition. Then enjoy "Journey", the play, which is the true story of a lone wolf's travels into California brought to the stage by Ecolinesis Dance Company and Crane Culture Theater. Poetry combines with modern dance and dramatic music to create a thrilling yet haunting depiction of this wolf's odyssey. He faces a world of wonder, harmony, and threats. Immerse yourself into his life and see a brave new world through his eyes.

Wolves in California: The Long Journey Home

Sat. 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Location: Chico Grange Hall

California is excited to celebrate the beginning of what could be one of our state's most inspiring conservation stories: the return of the gray wolf, after being absent for decades following extirpation by humans. As a keystone predator, wolves provide a critical balance to the ecosystem in which they belong. To prepare for the return of wolves in California, the California Wolf Center is working to forge a visionary path for wolf recovery that focuses on solutions, instead of the conflict that often pervades wolf recovery elsewhere. No other animal in history has so captured the imagination of people than the wolf! Come learn about the true nature of this dynamic predator and what the return of this iconic species means to our golden state.

All Those White Geese! Snow Goose Workshop

Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, and Blue Morphs - it can be overwhelmingly white in the sky! Come learn how to tell the difference between all these white geese. Through exquisite pictures and lively narration, you can become much more knowledgeable about our Mascot of the Festival.

Raptors and Rehab

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center

Meet "Checkers" a Great Horned Owl as Marilyn shares some fascinating facts, unique habits, and curious myths about these beautiful birds of prey. Learn about wildlife rehabilitation and what you can do to help native wildlife. A surprise visit by our raptors is sure to delight all ages. Presenter: Marilyn Gamette

SUNDAY ONLY

Photographing the Refuge

Sun. 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

selection, and how to use hand tools and power tools. This workshop's fee includes a one-year membership in the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association. Must be fifteen years or older. \$35

Saturday, January 24 FIELD TRIPS

Valley Wetlands & Wintering Waterbirds: for the Serious Birder

Sat 6:30 am - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Travel the back roads of Chico to visit the Llano Seco Unit of the North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Thermalito Afterbay, and the Feather River. Also, we'll return to Chico via Cottonwood Road. Along with Snow Geese, we hope to see a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and many other wetland species. This trip is most appropriate for intermediate and advanced birders. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scopes, and a field guide. A\$30 Level 4

Refuge to Refuge: Snow Geese Galore!

Sat 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Visit two premier Sacramento Valley wildlife refuges, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Sacramento NWR, and CA Dept. of Fish and Game Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. See huge flocks of Snow Geese and waterfowl along with cranes, ibis, and a variety of raptors. Dress in layers and bring a sack lunch. A\$30 - Y\$10 Level 2

Tehama Bird Trek

Sat 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Visits on this exciting bird trek include birdy Cone Grove Park, and the Sacramento River Discovery Center. The SRDC is a Watchable Wildlife Site. Habitats include oak woodland, restored grasslands, and riparian. Target birds for this trip are the Lewis's Woodpecker and Golden Eagle. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Tundra Swan Viewing: District 10 (includes lunch)

Sat 7:45 am - 1:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Drive from Chico to Marysville and stop at District 10 where traditionally hundreds of large Tundra Swans can be seen. Swan viewing will be mainly from the sides of backcountry roads -- the hiking will be very limited. We will stop at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Mathews who will offer us lunch and a presentation on the benefits of rice farming for wildlife. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. A\$32 - Y\$12 Level 1

Birds & Trees of the Genetic Resource Conservation Center NEW

Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join us for a walk through the Genetic Resource and Conservation Center in South Chico. Enjoy the 209-acre center with exotic trees and shrubs, some over 100 years old. Joseph will discuss identification, including how to identify trees out of leaf. With the large variety of tree species and the creek and its neighboring open space, many species of birds flock to

2nd Annual Birds & Books Opening Mixer at Patrick Ranch

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015, 5:00 — 8:00 PM

Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, located between Chico & Durham

Free admission and parking for all Festival participants

and general public

Glenwood House Tour \$5

Start your winter birding adventure by attending the 2nd Annual Snow Goose Festival Birds & Books Opening Mixer! Meet local and regional authors who have touched upon a wide range of subjects in our natural world. They will share their passion and sell their books. Enjoy light refreshments featuring local products, live music, and no-host bar.

Pull up a chair in Pat's Barn and enjoy the outstanding avian wonders of our area during the Bird Photo Slideshow. Photos submitted by our trip leaders, participants and photographers will continually show throughout the evening.

Even if you can't make it on a field trip or attend a workshop presentation, the Birds & Books Mixer is a great place to introduce yourself and your family to the joys of birding and our natural world. AMPLE PARKING IS AVAILABLE.

the center. We hope to see Western Bluebird, Downy Woodpecker, and raptors to name a few. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Llano Seco Viewing Platform: Dabbling, Diving & Soaring

Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento River NWR offers sensational views from an elevated viewing platform. This is an ideal spot for viewing a large number of geese and ducks in one location! Other often-seen species include Sandhill Cranes, raptors, herons, and egrets. This is definitely a birding hot spot and a good trip for the beginning birder. This trip is also offered on Sunday. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Sutter Buttes Hike: Dean Ranch

Sat 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonalds

A three-mile gentle hillside walk will take us around the 100-year-old Dean Place Cattle Ranch. See such gems as the Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Golden Eagle, and Ferruginous Hawk, along with the usual winter sparrows, and with luck, geese and swans flying high over the Buttes. Be sure to bring binoculars, lunch, water, and sturdy boots/shoes and hiking sticks, if you have them. No early departures on this trip. Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Vina Plains to Pine Creek & the River

Sat 8:30am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Visit The Nature Conservancy's Vina Plains Preserve and observe winter plants and animals of unique vernal pool ecosystems. Learn why vernal pool landscapes are so important to migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Next, travel to the Pine Creek Unit of Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge to see a riparian habitat restoration project and learn why it is critical for the survival of Chinook Salmon, migratory songbirds, and endangered species. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

Birding & Brunch in Paradise!

Sat 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here is an opportunity to see the birds of Paradise and enjoy a sumptuous brunch all in one trip! First you'll walk along the Historic Miocene Flume and see towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, and raptors flying above. Then we will travel up the ridge to enjoy our brunch at the Wulbern's beautiful home and watch the activity at their bird feeders. Then end the day at Kunkle Reservoir. Here expect to see sightings of Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, resident hawks, and an assortment of other birds and wildlife. A similar trip is also offered on Sunday. A\$35 - Y\$15 Level 2

Bidwell Park – Bird & Ecological Diversity

Sat 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join Dan Efsaef, Park and Natural Resource Manager for the City of Chico, as we explore the diverse habitats of Bidwell Park. We will learn about the factors that influence the vegetation of Blue Oak, grassland, and riparian areas, and create a list of birds from each area and discuss the reasons for the diversity. We will also get a first-hand view of some of the restoration and management efforts in the Park. Participants should plan for wet weather, and hiking uneven terrain. Plan for a great morning out in the park, rain or shine! A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

Olive City Agriculture and Nature Center (includes lunch) NEW

Sat 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Are you looking for an agricultural and birding experience? This 354-acre site near Corning strives to illustrate the combined values of both agriculture and the natural environment. Explore the 275-acre nature preserve where over 100 bird species take advantage of restored wetlands, vernal pools, and uplands, and Burrowing Owls winter in artificial burrows. Relax afterward with a delicious BBQ lunch. Wear hiking boots. A\$35 - Y\$15 Level 3

Feather River Region & Nature Trail

Sat 9:15 am - 12:45 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This trip begins with a car caravan to the Old Bath House Nature Center near the Table Mountain Bridge. Here we will begin with a nice leisurely hike along the banks of the Feather River. We will keep a keen eye out for some of the area's abundant wildlife, which includes mergansers, goldeneyes, Bufflehead, Osprey, eagles, River Otter and even lingering salmon. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Family Hike at Verbena Fields

Sat 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

In the heart of Chico, a wildflower meadow overlooks a creek meandering past willows and cottonwoods, while overhead a Red-shouldered Hawk surveys the ground for its next meal. Lesser-known Verbena Fields is a 21-acre open space that is an active restoration site along Lindo Channel where native plants and animals are making a comeback. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 2

Wings & Wine Tasting in Vina SOLD OUT

Sat 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Raptor Run SOLD OUT

Sat 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Butte College Wildlife Refuge & Natural Area SOLD OUT

Sat 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Saturday, January 24 PRESENTATIONS/ WORKSHOPS

Basic Nature & Wildlife Photography Workshop

Sat 8:00 am - 10:30 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This workshop is an introduction to nature and wildlife photography, particularly bird photography. Topics will include discussions on exposure, lighting, composition, and the ethics of nature photography. Some equipment will be on display including film and digital cameras, photography blinds, camera support devices, flash projection setups, and remote control units. This workshop compliments a free Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge photography tour offered on Sunday morning. To sign up for this tour, contact the Sacramento NWR at (530) 934-2801 or sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov. A\$15 - Y\$8

Soundscapes of California

Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Take a tour of California's fascinating soundscapes. We will enjoy a selection of surround-sound recordings from California's parks and wildlife preserves. A quick survey of nature recording equipment and brief ear training exercises will be given. The relatively new concept of "soundscape" describes an immersive appreciation of nature. Participants may wish to take the field trip that compliments this workshop, Beginning Birding by Ear on Sunday at 7:45 am. A\$8 - Y\$5

Owls: Soul of the Night by Scott Weidensaul NEW

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Everyone loves owls - the beauty, mystery and charm of these nocturnal birds. But science is still unlocking many of the secrets of owl biology and ecology, and there is a great deal still to be discovered about them. Scott Weidensaul will take you into the enigmatic world of owls during this workshop, based on his forthcoming book, Owls of North America and the Caribbean, a Peterson Reference Guide, and exploring much of his own field research into Snowy Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and other species. A\$10 - Y\$5

Photographing Birds & Nature: Where to Go in California

Sat 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This program is an introduction to some of the locations in California and nearby southern Oregon that provide excellent opportunities to photograph nature, particularly birds and scenic views. Photography

opportunities on the refuges of the Sacramento Refuge Complex will be discussed in addition to recommended methods of photographing at the other locations covered in the presentation. A\$15 - Y\$8

The Ventriloquist Owl **NEW**

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The ventriloquist Flammulated Owl is a secretive, Neotropical migrant that eats only insects and nests in tree cavities. People have always been fascinated by owls, and this species is particularly intriguing. After 15 years studying Flammulated Owls in western North America, David Arsenault remains captivated by their mysterious lives. David currently manages the Plumas Audubon Society's long-term study of Flammulated Owls at Lake Davis in northern California. During this workshop, David will share what he has learned studying the species in New Mexico, Nevada, and now in California. A\$8 - Y\$5

Photography—Taking it to the Next Level! **NEW**

Sat 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Finding your way in the field of artistic expression, consider going outside your comfort zone. From Go Pro Hero, iPhone cameras, super easy HD movies, inexpensive 60X telephoto and a photo market gone bonkers, the lid is off on creativity. Let's (show & tell) talk about it. The surprise is in learning that your best location may well be close to where you live. A\$10 - Y\$5

Less Lawn, More Wildlife: Gardens as Habitat

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Lawns are wonderful for children to play on, dogs to run on, and the expanse of green is certainly appreciated in the heat of the summer. Lawns, however, use large quantities of water and fertilizer, need mowing, and provide little to no habitat for insects and birds. Learn the nuts and bolts of converting a lawn into a wildlife friendly garden for pollinators and birds. We will also talk about Altacal's new Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program. A\$8 - Y\$5

Secrets of the Sutter Buttes

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here's an opportunity for glimpses into the mysterious Sutter Buttes. Travel through the Buttes without ever leaving your chair as you enjoy this fascinating slide presentation on the many facets and wonders of the remarkable landscape that makes up the Sutter Buttes. A\$8 - Y\$5

Sunday, January 25 FIELD TRIPS

Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Sun 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Situated on the west side of the upper Sacramento Valley, Black Butte Lake is surrounded by beautiful dark volcanic buttes. Come explore the backwaters and woodlands this lake has to offer and see Grebes, Belted Kingfisher, Gulls, Wild Turkeys and raptors. Bring a lunch and drink. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Sutter Buttes Hike – Mid-Mountain

Sun 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonalds

On this 5-mile hike into the Sutter Buttes, we'll visit secluded locations revealing the Buttes' geologic formation. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, and bring lunch and water. No early departures on this trip. Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Sutter Buttes Hike – Summit Ascent

Sun 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonalds

This hike traverses essentially the same terrain as the Mid-Mountain Hike but adds an additional half-mile 1000 ft. elevation gain. The last half-mile is quite strenuous. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, and bring lunch and water. No early departures on this trip. Be aware that you will be driving another 12-15 miles to the hike's starting point from the meeting place at the McDonald's in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

Beginning Birding by Ear

Sun 7:45 am - 11:00 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join avid ear-birder Mauricio Schrader for a morning of listening to and learning some audio clues for identifying bird songs and calls in the field. Some listening and recording equipment used in Greg Weddig's Soundscapes workshop will be along on this trip. Participants may wish to take the Soundscapes of California Workshop on Saturday at 9am at the Chico Masonic Family Center that compliments this field trip. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Birds & Trees of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve

Sun 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

We will explore the native trees, shrubs, and birds of Butte Creek. Butte Creek Canyon is stunning with its Tuscan Volcanic Formations. This is a 3-4 mile intermediate hike along the creek (and over some logs) down to the pond. Last year we enjoyed Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Ducks, goldeneye, Great Horned Owl, and assorted warblers. Wear sturdy shoes/boots and bring water, and snacks. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

Nature Journaling & the NorCal Naturalist Journal **NEW**

Sun 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

We will spend about an hour talking about keeping lists, keeping notes, turning those notes into stories, posting, blogging, field sketching, etc. We will then spend the remainder of our time out in the field doing some actual journaling. A copy of the NorCal Naturalist Journal is included in the price of this event. A\$32 - Y\$20 Level 2

Rio Vista, Woodson Bridge & Olive Tour

Sun 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Visit Rio Vista Unit of Sacramento NWR and Woodson Bridge SRA to search for the winter birds along the Sacramento River. Hike a 2-mile flat trail through Rio Vista Unit in riparian woodland, through towering oaks, sycamores, and cottonwoods at Woodson Bridge SRA. Then drive to Corning to the Lucero Olive Oil tasting room (www.lucerooliveoil.com). Once there you will be given a mill tour and have the opportunity to taste several of their award-winning olive oils and their unique olive oil ice cream sundae. Wear good walking/hiking shoes, and bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Bidwell Park Bird Walk with Scott Weidensaul **SOLD OUT**

Sun 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

Llano Seco Viewing Platform: Dabbling, Diving & Soaring

Sun 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento River NWR offers sensational views from an elevated viewing platform. This is an ideal spot for viewing a large number of geese and ducks in one location! Other often-seen species include Sandhill Cranes, raptors, herons, and egrets. This is definitely a birding hot spot and a good trip for the beginning birder. This trip is also offered on Saturday. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Birding & Brunch in Paradise

Sun 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

First, leisurely walk along the Historic Miocene Flume. Here we should see towhees, thrush, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, and raptors. Then we will travel up the ridge to enjoy our brunch at the Wulbern's beautiful home and watch the activity at their bird feeders. We will end the day in parks around Paradise, where we hope to see Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Steller's Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatch, resident hawks, and an assortment of other birds and wildlife. A similar trip is also offered on Saturday. A\$35 - Y\$15 Level 2

Falcons & Falconry

Sun 8:45am - 11:00 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

On this field trip; you will have the opportunity to see falconry in action. Falconry is a traditional method of hunting with trained birds of prey. The field trip will begin with a short drive to a large open area. Falconry as a field sport will be discussed and equipment of this ancient art form will be displayed, along with live raptors. The trip will culminate with a live flying raptor display. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Sun 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Explore the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plan where we hope to find many species of migrating waterfowl as well as resident birds and mammals. We will then go over to the Indian Fishery Day Use Area of Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. There the half-mile trail winds through an oak woodland forest adjacent to an oxbow lake. Woodpeckers abound along with many other woodland and aquatic birds. If we are lucky we may also see River Otter, Beaver, and Pond Turtles. Bring binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Rancho Esquon

Sun 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Just a short drive outside Durham, along the roadways bordering Rancho Esquon, multitudes of Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes can usually be seen right from your vehicle! Bald Eagles are occasionally spotted perched in the snags along the agricultural wetlands. Upon arrival at Rancho Esquon, we will visit the viewing platform which offers a spectacular view of the surrounding wetlands with a high concentration of ducks. This trip is also offered on Thursday with a different leader. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

2nd Annual Chico Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids

Sun 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center

CBC4K is a yearly event all over North America. Starting at the Chico Creek Nature Center, we'll have a binocular boot camp and hike orientation. CBC4K group leaders will guide families in the identification and counting of birds. During your 90-minute hike around Bidwell Park see birds that are common in the Park. After collecting data, kids will share their experiences at lunchtime over pizza. The results will become part of a database that scientists can look at to see how the birds in our area are doing. How many birds can you find? Open to youth ages 9-15. Youth must be accompanied by at least one parent. There is no charge for parents. Pizza and drinks are included. Some binoculars and bird guidebooks will be available, but feel free to bring your own. Y\$5 Level 2

Wing-It to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Sun 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The "winging-it" part of this trip is where the fun starts! We'll veer off the beaten path as we bird along our way to the refuge. At the refuge we'll view the dioramas and pick-up a wildlife checklist. Then we are off to a leisurely adventure around the auto tour loop to possibly see thousands of birds. You can expect to see Snow Geese, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, wigeon, raptors, and possibly a Bald Eagle. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Owl Banding Presentation, Survey, & Field Trip with guest Scott Weidensaul **Field Trip SOLD OUT**

Sun 3:30 pm - 8:30 pm

However, the Owl Banding Presentation is still open and FREE to attend at Chico Creek Nature Center.

Sunday, January 25 PRESENTATIONS/ WORKSHOPS

Talk is the Stuff with Dirt on It **NEW**

Sun 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Drawing on original story and poetry, Lin Jensen will explore the relationship between the natural world and world of human language, touch, and thought. Lin is the author of six books, and from his first, *Bowing to Receive the Mountain* (1997), to his most recent, *Deep Down Things* (2010), all of Lin's work is informed with a deep love and regard for the living earth. A\$8 - Y\$5

Chico Backyard Birds

Sun 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join Mac, who will give you tips on identifying some of Northern California's birds that visit your backyard and explain why many of them seem to seasonally disappear. In addition, he will make suggestions regarding reference material to help you become a better backyard "birder." A\$8 - Y\$5