

Wednesday, January 23

Field Trips

Soils, Landforms, & Vegetation of Bidwell Park

Wed 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This trip begins in the flood plain of Big Chico Creek and travels back in time across the older deposits of the creek and up onto the Cascade foothills. The first route covers a condensed sequence of the major landforms that occur in the Sacramento Valley as well as the transition to the Tuscan Formation in the Cascade foothills in less than 1 mile. The second route is a 1.5 mile one-way walk up the bottom of Big Chico Creek Canyon applying what was observed on the first route and viewing the slot canyon in the Lovejoy basalt which controls the stream dynamics in this reach of the canyon. Vegetation and habitats will be correlated to soil characteristics and landforms along both routes. We will do some free-style birding on our hike back. Please bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Dress warmly and wear hiking shoes. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Andrew Conlin and Birder, John Seid

Up the Creek with a Pair of Binoculars

Wed 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) is part of the larger Big Chico Creek watershed and home to a great diversity of plants and animals, including over 100 bird species. A historical ranch, the BCCER is now a place for education, research, and habitat enhancement. We will bird the diverse oak woodland/chaparral/meadows of the upper canyon, with some spectacular scenery. If road conditions permit, we will drive the short but steep road to the creek. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Jon Aull and Charlie Cornell

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge & Vicinity

Wed 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here's a guided trip that offers spectacular opportunities to see the wintering waterfowl along the Pacific Flyway! The Colusa NWR has a three-mile auto tour loop and an observation deck that offers great viewing and photography, with huge numbers of White-fronted, Ross's, and **Snow Geese**, along with ducks such as Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler. We may also see grebes, herons, egrets, bitterns, shorebirds, and other waterbirds including Soras and Wilson's Snipe. There's also a roost site here with 150 - 200 Black-crowned Night-Herons. Then we'll view waterfowl from the road at Delevan NWR and stop at some other local sites, depending on where the birds are, including the Vermilion Flycatcher if it comes back to the Maxwell Cemetery this winter. Bring water, binoculars, and a lunch. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Joyce Bond and Carol Anderson

Birding, History, & Wine Tasting in Durham

Wed 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Come to Durham and see for yourself its birds and wines, back roads and vines, and the founding family of the times. The adventure starts at the Llano Seco Viewing Platform to see waterfowl and cranes. Then we'll drive

the back roads of Durham where orchards and flooded rice fields support a wide variety of bird species. Our lunch stop will be at Durham Community Park where Yellow-billed Magpies are often found! After lunch we'll stop at the Durham Cemetery, where you'll find out the interesting history of the founding family, the Durhams, and California pioneer Sam Neal. The adjoining [Butte Creek Country Club](#), a golf course, will offer an opportunity for more birding. Then to finish off the day we'll stop at the [Nesseré Vineyards](#) for some wine tasting and bird watching. Tasting fee included in price. Bring lunch, water, and dress warmly with appropriate foot wear. A\$35 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Bill Smith and Mary Muchowski

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Wed 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This field trip will visit two of Chico's best birding sites and is appropriate for beginning to advanced birders. First we will explore the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant, which now has limited access to the public. We'll spend a couple of hours walking the levees around the ponds 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: TBA

Raptor Run

Wed 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Northern Sacramento River Valley hosts a large assortment of raptors that during our relatively mild, wet winters is augmented by an almost equally large contingent of wintering species, some of which exploit our fantastic cohort of wintering waterfowl and others the vast expanses of grasslands and fallow ag lands. January is one of the best months for raptor viewing in Butte County; accordingly, we will caravan southward along Hwy 99 to the environs south of Chico to seek as many of these birds of prey as we can. Target species include Bald and Golden Eagles, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Merlin, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Burrowing Owl. Dress for potentially cold, wet weather; bring a scope if you have one; and binoculars are a **MUST! Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Gary Nielsen

Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Wed 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

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 silhouetted against the sunset sky as they leave the refuge in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. **This trip is also offered on Friday with a different leader.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Fred Thomas

After the Basics: Intermediate Wildlife Photography Workshop (Wednesday) & Field Trip (Thursday) **NEW**

Wed 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This is a Wednesday workshop with a Thursday morning field trip. Digital photography has made wildlife photography easier and more fun. But good wildlife photography does require some knowledge of composition, lighting, equipment and the exposure triangle. This workshop will take some of the mystery out of these more advanced techniques and allow you to make wildlife photos that you can be proud of. The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrations and discussion of field techniques. **The workshop will begin at 1:00 pm on Wednesday at the Chico Masonic Family Center and last approximately 2 hours. On Thursday, we will meet in the early morning at the Llano Seco Wildlife Area about 30 minutes from Chico. The field trip will begin at 7:00 am and conclude around 10:00 am.** Multiple species of ducks and geese, Sandhill Cranes, and several raptor species are often found near the viewing platform, along trails and in the adjacent agricultural areas. Due to the potential for rain and mud, rain gear and boots for yourself plus rain protection for your equipment may be needed. Individualized help with advanced techniques will be provided in the field. All ages 15 and older are welcome. Dress warmly and bring your rain gear and boots. Water and a snack are suggested. A\$38 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Kirby Flanagan

Eagle Roost Safari

Wed 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor. Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. **For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** \$125 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood

Bat Safari

Wed 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This outing offers a unique up-close and personal glimpse into the world of bats. We will utilize mist nets to potentially capture some of the bat species that utilize the Chico area. We will also utilize acoustic equipment to record and identify bats using their call characteristics. Bring headlamps (preferred) or flashlights, chairs, warm clothes (including a stocking cap), cameras, and snacks/hot drinks. It should be noted that these animals do not read the text books so there will be no guarantee of any successful captures. Youth, age 9 to 17, are welcome.

Bring waders if you have them, but they are not required. **No early departures on this trip.** Rain or cold weather will cancel this event only. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Linda Angerer

Thursday, January 24

Field Trips

Marathon Big Day Birding in Butte County

Thu 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Be prepared for an exciting and exhaustive quest to see the maximum number of northern California bird species possible between dawn and dusk! We'll go high for species like Evening Grosbeak, Varied Thrush, and White-headed, Hairy and Pileated Woodpecker. At mid-elevation we'll watch for California Thrasher and Golden Eagle. In the plains we'll look for Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Burrowing and Short-eared Owl, grebes, and possibly Common Loon. We will also go low for Eurasian Wigeon and other rare waterfowl. Expect more than 100 species on this fun, fast-paced adventure! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars and be prepared to eat in the vehicles while driving to locations. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$35 Level 4

Field Trip Leader: Scott Huber

Lake Oroville Pontoon Boat Tour

Thu 7:45 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join us on a leisurely cruise on the world renowned Lake Oroville departing from the [Lake Oroville Marina](#). Start your morning with hot coffee, spiced apple cider, tea, and assorted rolls. You'll be aboard a deluxe, double-decker, 44-ft patio pontoon boat with upholstered seating, hot water, sink, and restroom. We'll be exploring the west branch, coves, and the main body of the lake in search of waterfowl and elusive raptors like Osprey, Bald and Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. We'll be stopping to have a buffet lunch of sandwiches and drinks as we float on the quiet waters. Lake Oroville's water level is in constant flux and may be down 200 vertical feet from its nearly 700 foot depth in the winter months. Please contact trip leader, Dave Garcia, for information on clothing to wear on this winter boat trip at (530) 218-5133 or daggerdave51@gmail.com. A\$60 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Dave Garcia and Craig Roth

Winter Raptors

Thu 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. On this trip we will not just tick off birds, but we will study hunting behaviors, and plumage differences. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural differences between species and discuss why some raptors have special features. Why do some raptors and not others have feathered legs? By the end of the trip, everybody will know and appreciate more about each species. Bring water and lunch. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech

Divide Ranch (includes lunch)

Thu 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Nestled in the beautiful foothills of Western Glenn County, you'll visit areas of the [Divide Ranch](#) cattle operation. This is a family owned and operated 2000-acre cattle ranch with an additional 3000-acre ranch that the family leases. The family's love for the land and its agricultural heritage has inspired them to create numerous riparian areas for wildlife habitat and a grazing management plan that places a strong emphasis on the health of the range. Numbers of deer, turtles, beavers, raptors, ducks, and other birds have increased greatly in these areas. **An extra pair of waterproof boots is a must due to a creek crossing. Following your time outdoors, you will enjoy lunch at the ranch house with Divide Ranch's 100% Grass-Fed Beef on the menu.** If time permits and for those wishing to do so, lunch will be followed by a short drive west to the beautiful Upper Stony Creek area for additional bird sighting opportunities. [Divide Ranch's](#) 100% Grass-Fed beef will be available for sale, so bring your ice chests! A\$38 - Y\$20 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Mike & Kathy Landini and Pamela Waldsmith

Feathers, Figs, & Olives **NEW**

Thu 8:15 am - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here is a unique field trip! First on the menu, taste some figs at Maywood Organic Fig Farm in Corning and take a tour by owner Bob Steinacher. The family's entire operation (orchards, packing, storage, and shipping) and their home are on site. Then take a short stroll through the surrounding orchards and end up at a seasonal creek with riparian habitat. This place is a winter haven for many bird species, which include sparrows, finches, kinglets, towhees, juncos, thrushes, woodpeckers, and even owls and hawks. After your morning of birding and figs, take the short trip into Corning to the Lucero Olive Oil's tasting room. Once there, you will be given a mill tour and have the opportunity to taste several of their award-winning olive oils. Birding will continue on the way back with a stop at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area to search for the winter birds that take advantage of the towering oaks, grandiose sycamores, and lofty cottonwoods in these healthy habitat areas along the Sacramento River. Wear good walking/hiking shoes, and bring lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Bill Smith, Bob Steinacher, and Bill Frey

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Thu 8:15 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is one of the premier winter birding areas in Northern Sacramento Valley. With its varied habitats, flat hiking trails, viewing hides, and auto loop, viewing the abundant waterfowl and **Snow Geese** will be spectacular! We will also be looking for wintering raptors, shorebirds, and gulls. Target birds will include Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Wigeon, Black-necked Stilt, and Long-billed Curlew to name a few. Please bring your binoculars, a lunch, and plenty of water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Victor & Ruth Paz

Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Thu 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family 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 Friday.** A\$15 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr

Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Thu 8:30 am - 3:30 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 Pied-billed Grebes, Clark's and Western Grebes, Belted Kingfisher, Bonaparte's Gulls, and goldeneyes. Stop along the roads and see Wild Turkeys, Loggerhead Shrike, Mountain Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Lewis's Woodpeckers, Golden Eagles, and Bald Eagles winter in this area too. We'll take a short hike on the Big Oak Trail. Bring a lunch and drink. **This trip is also offered on Sunday with different leaders.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Wyatt Hersey and Charlie Cornell

Delevan NWR & Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Thu 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Delevan NWR is one of 15 National Wildlife Refuge units along the Interstate 5 corridor. This refuge is generally closed to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to visit this area that is home to large numbers of Pacific Flyway's wintering waterfowl and host to hundreds of shorebirds, herons, egrets and raptors. Then we'll travel to Sacramento NWR to witness thousands of birds in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, and a scope (if you have one), and wear layered clothing for winter wear. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Jan Martinez

Basics of Wildlife Photography Workshop (Thursday) and Field Trip (Friday) **NEW**

Thu 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This is a Thursday workshop with a Friday morning field trip. With the advent of digital cameras, wildlife photography has become a rapidly growing pastime for millions of people. Birding tours now have as many participants with cameras as with binoculars. The elements of this workshop are to outline the history; discuss the equipment and costs; explain the basic processes; delineate field methods; and define the ethics of photographing wild birds and mammals in natural settings. This workshop involves a PowerPoint program on these aspects; display of equipment; and an introduction to the most productive locations. **The workshop will begin at 1:00 pm on Thursday at the Chico Masonic Family Center and last approximately 90 minutes. The following day, Friday, we will meet in the early morning at the Llano Seco Wildlife Area about 30 minutes from Chico. The field trip will commence shortly after sunrise (about 7:30 am) and conclude at 10:00 am.** This area provides excellent opportunities to explore many aspects of bird photography. Several species of ducks and geese, Sandhill Cranes, and several raptor species are often found in close proximity to the viewing platform and trails and in the adjacent agricultural areas. Due to the potential for inclement weather conditions, rain gear and rain protection for equipment may be needed. Discussions on lighting, focus, distances, etc. will be included. Youth, age 16 & 17, are welcome. Dress warmly and bring water and a snack. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Dean Carrier

Eagle Roost Safari

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor. Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. **For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. This same trip is offered every day of the Festival. \$125**

Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood

Historic Llano Seco Rancho -- Wildlife & Habitat Conservation with David Wimpfheimer

Thu 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This is a "behind the gates" opportunity to visit the historic [Llano Seco Rancho](#) where thousands of acres are set aside for wildlife habitat and conservation. Habitats include riparian forests of the Sacramento River and Little Chico Creek, Valley oak woodlands and savannas, native and annual grasslands, vernal pool and freshwater marsh wetlands. These habitats attract wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes, as well as a variety of raptors. We'll hear about the Rancho's rich natural and cultural histories, its wildlife habitats, and wildlife-friendly farming practices. A field trip will wind through a majestic Valley oak woodland, where we will stretch our legs before heading to the marsh to scout-out ducks, geese, Sandhill Cranes, and other wildlife. **If the ranch property is inaccessible due to flooding, we will travel to the viewing platform at the Llano Seco Unit to view the waterfowl after hearing about the ranch's history and current farming practices.** Participants will also meet with Joe Silveira, US Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologist, who manages the wildlife habitat programs at Llano Seco. Dress warmly, bring a warm beverage, and do bring your binoculars -- we may have a chance to see hundreds of wintering ducks, geese, and Sandhill Cranes! **This tour leaves the ranch after dark.** *(Above photo courtesy of [Fare Resources](#))* A\$35 - Y\$15 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Richard Thieriot and David Wimpfheimer

Winter Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Thu 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This is a rare chance to observe an owl research project studying winter use of foothill habitat. Mist nets and an audio lure will be used to attempt to capture, band and release Northern Saw-whet Owls. Bring headlamps or flashlights, chairs, warm clothes, cameras, and snacks, and/or hot drinks. Rain and/or high winds cancel this event only. All other Snow Goose Festival events go on as scheduled, rain or shine. A\$37 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Owl Monitoring Team

Thursday, January 24

Presentations/Workshops

"Heron in Cattails" Painting Class NEW

Thu 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Meet at Studio 561

Join us for an introductory level painting experience at [Studio 561](#) as we paint a Great Blue Heron standing amidst cattails. Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring appetizers and beverage as desired. All materials provided for this step-by-step, family-friendly painting class. All ages welcome. \$45

Presenter: Christine Mac Shane

Friday, January 25

Field Trips

Cole & Book Family Farms NEW

Fri 6:30 am - 11:30 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Let your birding begin at two local farms. Our first stop will be at the Book Family Farm for the early morning eagle fly-out from their foothill roosting site. The farms' fields attract Sandhill Cranes and a variety of resident and wintering birds. Just down the road, our second stop, the Cole Farm, has a large pond with cattails and tules, perfect habitat for numerous waterbirds. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Keith Book, Gary Cole, Jerry Dirnberger, and Lorraine Smith

Marathon Big Day Birding in Sutter County

Fri 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Mary and Matt will be leading a fast-paced, non-stop, wide-ranging adventure throughout Sutter County. This county is known for its wetlands and rice fields where we'll expect to see a wide variety of waterfowl including swans, geese, ducks, wading birds, shorebirds, and rails. We will bird around the Sutter Buttes while looking for Golden Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and other grassland species. Next we'll head over to Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary, then to Sutter NWR to see what ducks we can find, and then off to Meridian where an unexpected Harris's Sparrow was spotted last winter. Expect to see 75-80 or more species on this fun adventure! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. We will be eating on the run (or in the car) since we all want to see as many birds as possible! **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. No early departures on this trip.** A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Upper Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail

Fri 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park, a favorite birding trail with locals, offers a surprisingly rich variety of birds all year. The natural habitat along Big Chico Creek offers excellent viewing opportunities of many creek-

side and oak woodland bird species, and it has some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. We will hike less than 3 miles round-trip along the creek starting at Horseshoe Lake. Sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit. Many other species are possible, like Phainopepla, and it's always worth a walk down this trail to find out! Wear comfortable hiking shoes and layers, and bring water and snacks. **This trip is also offered on Sunday morning with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Carrie Wendt

Red Bluff Recreation Area

Fri 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center at 7:30 am

Meet at Sacramento River Discovery Center at 8:30 am

The [Sacramento River Discovery Center](#), located near the river in the Red Bluff Recreation Area, will be the take-off point for this exciting birding adventure. This is an ideal place to see a large variety of species in the area's oak woodlands, riparian, and upland habitats. Target birds are Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Goldeneye, and lots of woodland birds. Past sightings include Barrow's Goldeneye, Phainopepla, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Over 120 different species of birds have been sighted in this area throughout the year. This trip is recommended for birders from beginner to advanced. Please bring lunch, water, and binoculars, and be prepared for any weather possibility. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: David Dahnke

Llano Seco Rancho -- Farms, Water, & Wildlife

Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Farming operations and managed wildlife areas at [Llano Seco Rancho](#) rely on a water delivery system that draws from the Sacramento River, Butte Creek, and the Feather River. On this tour you will see and learn about the ranch water delivery system that has been in use for over 100 years. Tour guides, John Hunt and Paul Kirk, are local ecologists who have been involved in wildlife studies, habitat restoration, and resource management at the ranch for over 15 years. You will walk along the valley oak woodlands, savannas, and freshwater marshes associated with Angel Slough and the water delivery system. Dress warmly and be sure to bring your binoculars, as these habitats will provide ample opportunity to see wintering waterfowl, including Sandhill Cranes and other migratory birds. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Paul Kirk and John W. Hunt

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch

Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonald's

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, Phainopeplas, 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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Peter Sands

(Continued)

Yana Trail

Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Yana trail is perhaps the best winter hike in the North State. The trail crosses ponds, riparian zones, rolling blue oak savannah, and lava rock canyons. On the drive to the trailhead, we will stop at ponds off of Bend Ferry Road to look for waterfowl. We then continue to the trailhead and make a diversion to the Perry Riffle on the Sacramento River to view birds in this riparian zone. We will then rejoin the Yana trail and hike northward toward Massacre Flats. Expect an abundance of Lewis's Woodpeckers and enjoy close observations of woodland and riparian birds found in this area in winter: White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a variety of sparrows, Common Mergansers, herons and egrets. There is a good chance that large flocks of ducks and geese, and if lucky, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Prairie Falcons will be flying overhead. The hills should be very green by late January, and this trail offers stunning views of the Sacramento River and snow-capped Mt. Lassen. Trip leader will allow those who cannot complete entire 9-mile round trip hike to return to the trailhead early if this distance is too strenuous for some. Bring water, a hiking/trekking staff if desired, lunch, and sturdy hiking footwear and pack a raincoat. It's a lovely hike in the rain! A\$30 - Y\$15 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey

Rancho Esquon

Fri 8:15 am - 12:30 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 wildlife bunkhouse and receive a brief orientation about the diverse undertakings of this complex rice ranch. We will then head out to visit the 1,000-acre restored wetland area, which offers views of high concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, and varied wildlife. **This trip is also offered on Sunday with different leaders.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Shane Romain, Herman Gray, and David Samuels

Bidwell Park Bird Walk

Fri 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family 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 Thursday.** A\$15 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Roger Lederer and Carol Burr

(Continued)

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Fri 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Wildlife, wintering waterfowl, and nature photography are exceptional at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, especially along the three-mile gravel auto tour, one-mile walking trail, and at the observation deck. With over 4500 acres of wetlands, seasonal marshes, and uplands, the refuge supports wintering populations of more than 200,000 ducks and 75,000 geese. Spectacular flights of **Snow Geese** and Ross's 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

Field Trip Leader: Joseph O'Neil

Dye Creek Preserve

Fri 8:45 am - 3:45 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

In the Lassen Foothills of eastern Tehama County, scenic Dye Creek Preserve will be an adventure for the hiker and birder. While hiking the rugged Dye Creek Canyon, we will discuss land management efforts by The Nature Conservancy, Yahi Indian occupation, local geology, and the ecosystem. Expect to see birds common to oak woodlands and riparian habitats in January such as the Belted Kingfisher, Lewis's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Oak Titmouse, Brown Creeper, and Western Bluebird. Sightings of raptors could include Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks. The hike is a strenuous four miles and has three stream crossings. The depth of the water crossings is subject to weather conditions. Bring lunch and drink. **Boots/sturdy footwear is a MUST!** A\$27 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Jesse Klingler and Donald Beers

Birds & Wine with Purple Line with David Wimpfheimer

Fri 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Purple Line Urban Winery in downtown Oroville, a boutique winery that produces hand-crafted wines, will be your last stop on this amazing birding adventure that will first take you to see the swans, geese, and raptors along Cottonwood Road off Hwy 99. Then on to Oroville to hike the Feather River Trail to view the numerous diving ducks, herons, and egrets. Then we'll go to the [Purple Line Urban Winery](#) in downtown Oroville for some wine tasting and a special presentation by owner and winemaker, George Barber and his wife Kate. Any tasting fees included in price. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and wear layered clothing for winter weather.

A\$40 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Gaylord Grams and David Wimpfheimer

Sacramento Refuge Fly-Off

Fri 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

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 silhouetted against the sunset sky as they leave the refuge in their spectacular 'fly-off'. Dress warmly. Photographers are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday with a different leader.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Steve Emmons

Raptor Run thru Butte County

Fri 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

We will explore some of the grasslands favored in winter by Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald and Golden Eagles. On this trip we will not just tick off birds, but we will study hunting behaviors, and plumage differences. With binoculars and spotting scopes, we will pay attention to structural differences between species and discuss why some raptors have special features. Why do some raptors and not others have feathered legs? 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

Field Trip Leaders: Bruce Webb, Swarovski Optik Field Tech and Gary Nielsen

Waterfowl Photography at Colusa NWR **NEW**

Fri 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

We will travel to Colusa NWR to photograph waterfowl from the viewing platform. This is where Jeff has spent many hours capturing fantastic photos of the Central Valley's waterfowl, especially the **Snow and Ross's Geese**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, wigeon, and many other options as well. Be prepared for the weather and bring your big lenses with a tripod. 300mm and longer is best for this field trip. Jeff will share tips on site and answer any and all questions as the birds abound and the sun sets. There will be a chance to lie in the dirt. All ages 15 and older are welcome. A\$38 - Y\$20 Level 1

Field Trip Leader: Jeffrey Rich, Wildlife Photonaturalist

Eagle Roost Safari

Fri 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor.

Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. **For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** \$125 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood

(Continued)

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

Field Trip Leader: Scott Torricelli

Friday, January 25

Presentations/Workshops

Bird Carving Seminar for Beginners

Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

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 female quail in a feeding pose. Topics include where to get your supplies, how to use reference material, wood 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 *Presenters: Jim Burcio, Bob Solari, and Ken Nelson*

"Nest" Painting Class **NEW**

Fri 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Meet at Studio 561

We will be painting a "Nest" with mixed media and acrylic paint at [Studio 561](#). This is a fun beginner level painting with step-by-step instruction. Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring appetizers and beverage as desired. All materials provided for this family-friendly painting class. All ages welcome. \$45

Presenter: Christine Mac Shane

Saturday, January 26

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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

Field Trip Leader: Jay Bogiatto

Raptor ID, Trapping, & Banding

Sat 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Take your birding to another level! Join a team of biologists, who will capture and band raptors in the field. This field trip will include instruction on raptor identification and trapping methods. Once birds are captured we will discuss safe handling methods, provide information for identifying raptors by age and sex (when possible), and teach traditional methods used when banding raptors including collecting morphometric data and conducting health assessments. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.**

This trip is also offered on Sunday. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd, Scott Thomas, and Colin Dillingham

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\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Skip Augur

Wilbur Road & the Afterbay

Sat 7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Wilbur Road in Thermalito offers a great variety of birding habitats, which makes it the ideal place for winter birding. The birds found here at this time of year range from waterbirds to raptors. We will start on the south end for a 1-mile walk to various parts of the Thermalito Afterbay shoreline, and then we'll head north through grasslands and various access points of the Afterbay. The trip ends in the wide-open range land that is home to a wide variety of raptors. Bring a lunch and hiking shoes. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Phil Johnson

Tehama Bird Trek

Sat 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Areas that will be visited on this exciting bird trek include always birdy Cone Grove Park bordering Antelope Creek, Payne's Creek Recreation Area and surrounding BLM lands, and if time allows, a side trip to the western side of Tehama County. Habitats include oak woodland, restored grasslands, and riparian. Locations may change depending on recent sightings and participant requests. Target birds for this trip are the Lewis's Woodpecker, lots of raptors, and possibly Greater Roadrunner. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars, and be prepared for any weather possibility. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: David Dahnke

(Continued)

Sutter Buttes Hike -- State Park's Peace Valley

Sat 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family 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. We will visit a Native American site used for grinding acorns. As we traverse this incredible valley, we will learn the interesting geological processes that formed it. **This is an undeveloped area and involves some moderate uphill hiking, so wear sturdy hiking boots.** Bring a sack lunch and beverage. **No early departures on this trip.** A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Noel Lopez

Sutter Buttes Hike -- State Park's Peace Valley & "House Hill"

Sat 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family 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 a VERY strenuous hike over some VERY 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

Field Trip Leader: Ranger Zack Chambers

Tundra Swan Viewing -- District 10 (includes lunch)

Sat 8:00 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 walking 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\$15 Level 1

Field Trip Leaders: Charlie Mathews and Dale Whitmore

Lassen Volcanic National Park Snowshoe Hike

Sat 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Here is an opportunity to enjoy Lassen's stunning winter landscape while learning about seasonal wildlife adaptations, including how birds either migrate or tolerate the snowy forest. Due to the presence of snow and the time of day, there are few bird sightings on this hike. We will casually explore the park's beautiful Red Fir forest on snowshoes. **Participants must be 8 years or older and able to withstand moderate physical exertion at an elevation of 7,000 feet.** Snowshoes will be provided. No experience necessary! Dress warmly, wear boots, and bring lunch and water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 4

Field Trip Leader: Gregory Purifoy

(Continued)

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Dean Ranch

Sat 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonald's

A three-mile gentle hillside walk will take us around the 100-year-old Dean Place Cattle Ranch. Along the way the Buttes' volcanic origins and some Native American artifacts will be revealed. Hopefully, we will 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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Laura Lush

Birds & Trees of the Chico Seed Orchard

Sat 8:15 am - 12:15 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join us for a walk through the Chico Seed Orchard in South Chico. Here you will find 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. Joseph will discuss identification, including how to identify trees out of leaf. Tree resources for birds will also be covered. With the large variety of tree species and the creek and its neighboring open space, many species of birds flock to the center. We hope to see Western Bluebird, Downy Woodpecker, and raptors to name a few.

A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Joseph O'Neil and John Meserve

Vina Plains to Pine Creek & the River with David Wimpfheimer

Sat 8:15 am - 12:15 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\$30 - Y\$12 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Joe Silveira and David Wimpfheimer

Llano Seco Viewing Platform (Wheelchair)

Sat 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 Sunday led by Shelly Kirn.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Shelly Kirn

(Continued)

Wings & Wine Tasting in Vina

Sat 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Take a memorable trip to where California history was made and where assorted birds, monks, and a wine maker now reside. We'll explore the riparian and oak woodland habitats of the Sacramento River in search of resident and wintering birds such as woodpeckers, raptors, thrushes, sparrows, bluebirds, and more. Next, we'll visit the [Abbey of New Clairvaux](#) in nearby Vina, California, home to a community of Trappist monks that was founded in 1955. A discussion of the history of the property and its relation to the history of California, the story of its current residents, a tour of the under re-construction Twelfth Century Monastic Chapter House, and [wine tasting](#) will all be included. Tour and wine tasting fees included in price. Bring a lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$40 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Dawn Garcia, Jo Anna Arroyo, and Bill Smith

Winter Birding in the Foothills **PENDING**

Sat 8:45 am - 2:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Bird the hotspots in one of the least explored areas in our region! You'll hike along the historic Miocene Flume and around Lake Oroville's Parish Cove. The flume trail is gravel with no catwalks, although there are some elevation changes on the trail. Here we should see towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, raptors flying above, and maybe the striking Phainopepla and the Rock Wren. Then we'll end the day at Kunkle Reservoir where we can expect to see ducks and Canada Geese on the water; sightings of Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, resident hawks; and an assortment of other birds and wildlife. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** Bring a sack lunch and water. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Amy Darwin and Everett Ayers

Explore the Wild Side of Butte Creek

Sat 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The riparian woodland and areas of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve are biological hot-spots! We will explore this dynamic 93-acre preserve, and likely witness a variety of wildlife and birds. See how the creek and canyon setting shapes ecological conditions and influences habitat for wildlife and special status species, such as Chinook salmon and Bald Eagles. Participants should plan for full participation and hiking rain or shine on relatively flat but uneven terrain. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** Bring a lunch, water, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Dan Efsseff

Family Hike at Bidwell Park's Five Mile Recreation Area **NEW**

Sat 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The less visited Five Mile Recreation Area of Bidwell Park is the setting for a fun family adventure. The riparian ecosystem along Big Chico Creek is a great place to see a large variety of bird species. It is excellent birding for beginners, both youths and adults. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars will be available to borrow. A\$12 - Y\$5 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Heidi Gysin

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Sat 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This field trip will visit two of Chico's best birding sites and is appropriate for beginning to advanced birders. First we will explore the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant, which now has limited access to the public. We'll spend a couple of hours walking the levees around the ponds 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Sunday with different leaders.**

A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Raptor Run

Sat 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Northern Sacramento River Valley hosts a large assortment of raptors that during our relatively mild, wet winters is augmented by an almost equally large contingent of wintering species, some of which exploit our fantastic cohort of wintering waterfowl and others the vast expanses of grasslands and fallow ag lands. January is one of the best months for raptor viewing in Butte County; accordingly, we will caravan southward along Hwy 99 to the environs south of Chico to seek as many of these birds of prey as we can. Target species include Bald and Golden Eagles, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Merlin, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Burrowing Owl. Dress for potentially cold, wet weather; bring a scope if you have one; and binoculars are a **MUST! Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Sunday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Ken Sobon and Gary Nielsen

Tundra Swan Viewing -- District 10

Sat 12:30 pm - 4:30 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 walking will be very limited. The group will scout for a wide variety of water birds, from ducks, egrets and ibis to less seen Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. This area is one of the premier swan viewing sites in California. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 1

Field Trip Leader: Dale Whitmore

(Continued)

Youth Nature Photography Field Trip

Sat 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Join Wildlife Refuge Manager Steve Emmons as we travel to the Llano Seco Viewing Platform to photograph the refuge. This trip is intended for youths between 9 and 17 years of age. During the field trip, we will discuss different types of light and how to compose good photographs, and, of course, we will practice photographing some of the birds and other subjects found near the viewing platform. We will also make use of stuffed mounts as part of the learning process. **You will need to bring your own camera. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no charge for the adult.** Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Steve Emmons

Eagle Roost Safari

Sat 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor.

Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. **For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. This same trip is offered every day of the Festival.** \$125

Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood

Saturday, January 26

Presentations/Workshops

Less Lawn, More Wildlife - Gardens as Habitat

Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am

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. What we do in our gardens can make a difference in supporting populations of birds and insects. In this workshop I will discuss the nuts and bolts of converting a lawn into a wildlife friendly garden for pollinators and birds. Methods of eliminating lawns - irrigation conversion - design considerations - and plant choices will be covered. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John Whittlesey*

Bald Eagles in the Wild - A Visual Essay of America's National Bird

NEW

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The majestic Bald Eagle was adopted in 1782 as America's official bird. It has historically been a symbol of freedom and patriotism in the United States of America, and for good reason. The bird is associated with authority and has a fierce beauty that speaks to those who look upon it. Once on the brink of extinction, it is currently enjoying a comeback. Today, the Bald Eagle is a protected species. As chronicled in his newest book, *Bald Eagles in the Wild - A Visual Essay of America's National Bird*, wildlife and bird photonaturalist Jeffrey Rich will present this story with his glorious storytelling photography. He will share insights into the birds' habitat, feeding habits, mating patterns, the care of their young, and more. You will marvel over images of birds in flight, in nests with their young, at rest, preening, and capturing prey. Rich has chronicled the daily lives, in detail, of America's favorite bird. Jeffrey will share the story of many people who have helped and been inspired by nature and eagles. This presentation is definitely for the wildlife-lover, presents good news, and represents a feel-good state of things. You should leave knowing what is right with the world. A\$12 - Y\$5

Presenter: Jeffrey Rich, Wildlife Photonaturalist

Bird Migration in the Klamath Basin **NEW**

Sat 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Bird migration is a fascinating and complex subject. Based on three months spent in the Klamath Basin, professional wildlife and nature photographer Kirby Flanagan will discuss the current state of knowledge of migration in the Klamath Basin. This visually illustrated talk will discuss current tracking technology and what it has revealed, the effects of recurrent drought years, and how climate change has affected migration patterns for different species. Survival of the fittest and adaptability have never been more important to the survival of a species. Please join Kirby for a ninety-minute discussion of the ever changing migration patterns in the Klamath Basin. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Kirby Flanagan*

Build a LEGO Bird!

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Swoop into our collection of thousands of LEGO to design and customize your own LEGO bird creation. Then attach your bird to our zip line to watch it "fly" across the room. After a brief compare and contrast between real bird flight and LEGO bird flight, Play-Well TEKnologies instructors Amber Drake and Matthew Greening will assist kids with designing, building, and "flying" LEGO birds. While participants do not get to keep their creations, they do get to play and build with our massive LEGO collection and develop skills and inspiration that they can apply to building at home. **Youth ages 6-12 welcome.** (LEGO is a registered trademark of the LEGO Group.) Y\$10 *Presenters: Matthew Greening and Amber Drake*

Wildfire, Wildlife, & Being Firewise **NEW**

Sat 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Discover reasons why snag forests are among the most valuable and threatened bird habitats in America and how to protect these publicly owned forests - especially the ones that are close to you! Maya's presentation will include an introduction to this subject, the following two films (one a work-in-progress), and time for your

questions. *Firewise: The Scientists Speak* is a 10-minute film that weaves the personal accounts and findings of leading scientists and firefighters who work to guide communities in creating fire-safe homes and also work to protect the backcountry. *Searching for the Gold Spot: The Wild after Wildfire* is a 30-minute film about the rapid and amazing comeback of the wild in forests after wildfire. The story follows teams of scientists through the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades Mountains and beyond, and shows hundreds of living, breathing reasons why our publicly owned forests need to be saved from large-scale logging projects. The teams find rare Black-backed Woodpeckers, Goshawks, Spotted Owls, their young, and many other animals using post-fire forests – a surprise and a new sense of hope for all. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Maya Khosla*

The History & Mystery 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, which will include a historical perspective. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Mike Hubbartt*

The Life of the Rough-legged Hawk

Sat 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Since 2014, Jeff Kidd and his associates have collected approximately 150,000 GPS locations from fledgling and adult Rough-legged Hawks that were fitted with satellite and cellular transmitters. Hawks were trapped and released with transmitters on various summer and winter grounds throughout North America. During this presentation, we will discuss the biology, ecology, status, conservation, and annual movements of Rough-legged hawks. Maps will be provided to show fall and spring migration routes and movement data for both winter and summer grounds. Many other aspects of the life of these amazing hawks will also be discussed. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Jeff Kidd*

Sunday, January 27

Field Trips

Little Big Day NEW

Sun 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

A full day of birding can be a little tiring, especially for beginners who are seeing too many new species to keep up with! This abbreviated version of a Big Day will attempt to accumulate a nice list of birds, from passerines by the river to waterfowl in the wetlands and raptors above. Instead of ending by dusk, we'll finish by noon! Bring snacks, water, and binoculars. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2
Field Trip Leader: Ross Schaefer

(Continued)

Raptor ID, Trapping, & Banding

Sun 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Take your birding to another level! Join a team of biologists, who will capture and band raptors in the field. This field trip will include instruction on raptor identification and trapping methods. Once birds are captured we will discuss safe handling methods, provide information for identifying raptors by age and sex (when possible), and teach traditional methods used when banding raptors including collecting morphometric data and conducting health assessments. **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.**

This trip is also offered on Saturday. A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jeff Kidd, Scott Thomas, and Colin Dillingham

Understanding Bird Language **NEW**

Sun 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The wild birds around us have a deeply varied communication system which our ancestors understood and which we too can understand with practice. This field workshop will take a different angle on birding by attempting to slow down, focus on observation, turn on our senses, and to try to understand the meaning behind all the sound and movement of our feathered companions. We will begin with a short introduction of this topic, then participants will choose a spot on the landscape to sit and observe. We will then come together and make a large map with all the observations the group collects and see if we can weave a picture of what the birds are telling us. **ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE WELCOME!!** You do not need to know the calls of all the birds to get a lot out of this field workshop. Please bring a chair or something to sit on as the ground can be very wet and a snack to share during the mapping process. Be prepared for cold weather and dress appropriately. Rain cancels this event only. All other Snow Goose Festival events go on as scheduled, rain or shine. A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 1

Field Trip Leaders: Wyatt Hersey and Anasuya Basil

Coast Range Foothills via Newville Road

Sun 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Interesting geology, an old cemetery, and amazing pastoral views are what are in store for you when we explore the Newville area in the Coast Range Foothills. Our first stop will be at the Black Butte Lake overlook to search for waterfowl, and then we'll continue on Newville Road into the foothills. The oak savanna and open grasslands are excellent places for all raptors, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Mountain Bluebird. We will also take a short hike in the chaparral foothills to enjoy the views and look for Mountain Quail, and California Thrasher.

Wear hiking shoes and bring water, lunch, and binoculars. A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Phil Johnson

Beginning Birding by Ear

Sun 7:45 am - 11:00 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The skill of identifying birds by their vocalizations adds a wonderful new level of enjoyment to any outdoor outing. Join avid ear-birder Scott Huber for a morning of listening to and learning some audio clues for identifying bird songs and calls in the field. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Scott Huber

Birds, River & Habitat Restoration

Sun 7:45 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This a rare opportunity to journey into multiple river restoration sites on over 2,000 acres along the Sacramento River in Glenn County. These properties are being managed by multiple agencies to provide wildlife habitat, flood protection, and other benefits to the surrounding communities. We will hike the properties, enjoy the river, and see some great birds. Some past sightings have included Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Barrow's Goldeneye, and White-throated Sparrow. Bring snacks, water, and binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2
Field Trip Leader: Michael Rogner

Bird the Shores of Black Butte Lake

Sun 8:00 am - 3:30 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 Pied-billed Grebes, Clark's and Western Grebes, Belted Kingfisher, Bonaparte's Gulls, and goldeneyes. Stop along the roads and see Wild Turkeys, Loggerhead Shrike, Mountain Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Lewis's Woodpeckers, Golden Eagles, and Bald Eagles winter in this area too. We'll take a short hike on the Big Oak Trail. Bring a lunch and drink. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday with different leaders.** A\$27 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Andy Tomaselli and Bill Frey

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Mid-Mountain

Sun 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonald's

On this 5-mile hike into the Sutter Buttes, we'll visit secluded locations revealing the Buttes' geologic formation, Native American presence, old pioneer home sites, and ecology typical of California's past. This hike is moderately brisk. 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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt

Sutter Buttes Hike -- Summit Ascent

Sun 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet at Gridley McDonald's

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 in Gridley. A\$45 - Y\$30 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Marty Steidlmayer and Mike Hubbartt

(Continued)

Marathon Big Day Birding in Yuba County

Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Come one, come all for this fast-paced adventure through Yuba County where we will try to tally as many species as possible from sunrise to sunset! We will be traveling through rice fields and rolling hills, as well as stopping by sewage ponds. We'll begin in the rice fields as we drive from Ramirez Rd. to Fruitland Rd. and then Iowa City Rd. up to Loma Rica and then Collins Lake. We'll then drive down into Browns Valley and take Hwy 20 back into Marysville to check out the Marysville sewage ponds. We'll expect to see a wide variety of waterfowl including swans, geese, ducks, wading birds, shorebirds, and rails and tally 75-80 or more species on this fun adventure! Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. We will be eating on the run (or in the car) since we all want to see as many birds as possible! **Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. No early departures on this trip.** A\$35 - Y\$20 Level 4

Field Trip Leaders: Mary Muchowski and Matt Forster

Birds & Trees of Butte Creek Ecological Preserve

Sun 8:15 am - 12:15 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. Possible sightings include Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Ducks, goldeneye, Great Horned Owl, and assorted warblers. Goose and duck fly-overs are also possibilities. Otters and beavers may also be seen. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** We will explore issues that relate to how trees and plants respond to fire damage. Still lots of natural beauty and encouraging signs of recovery to explore. Wear sturdy shoes/boots and bring water, and snacks. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leaders: Jon Aull, Joseph O'Neil, and Miguette Sansegundo

Gray Lodge & Cordi Winery

Sun 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is one of the premier winter birding areas in Northern Sacramento Valley. With its varied habitats, flat hiking trails, viewing hides, and a 3-mile auto loop, viewing the million plus ducks, hundreds of thousands of **Snow** and **Ross's Geese**, and raptors galore will be spectacular! Then we'll take a short drive to [Cordi Winery](#), nestled at the base of the Sutter Buttes, for some wine tasting and R & R after your big day of birding. Bring snacks, lunch, water, a field guide, and binoculars. Dress for the winter weather and wear hiking shoes or boots. A\$35 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams

Llano Seco Viewing Platform (Wheelchair)

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 led by Shelly Kirn.** A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Shelly Kirn

Upper Bidwell Park's Yahi Trail

Sun 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park, a favorite birding trail with locals, offers a surprisingly rich variety of birds all year. The natural habitat along Big Chico Creek offers excellent viewing opportunities of many creek-side and oak woodland bird species, and it has some of the best winter birding in Bidwell Park. We will hike less than 3 miles round-trip along the creek starting at Horseshoe Lake. Sightings include Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit. Many other species are possible, like Phainopepla, and it's always worth a walk down this trail to find out! Wear comfortable hiking shoes and layers, and bring water and snacks. **This trip is also offered on Thursday morning with a different leader.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 3

Field Trip Leader: Charlie Cornell

Foothill Bird Trek **PENDING**

Sun 8:45 am - 12:45 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Lime Saddle trail, historic Miocene Flume, and Native American grinding rocks site are part of this birding adventure in the foothills above Chico. We will be traversing both forest and riparian areas with likely sightings of towhees, woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, titmice, and raptors. Phainopeplas have been sighted here. **You will be hiking in an area affected by the Camp Fire.** Dress in layers and bring water and binoculars. A\$22 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Jerry Dirnberger and Lorraine Smith

Rancho Esquon with David Wimpfheimer

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 wildlife bunkhouse and receive a brief orientation about the diverse undertakings of this complex rice ranch. We will then head out to visit the 1,000-acre restored wetland area, which offers views of high concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, and varied wildlife. **This trip is also offered on Friday with different leaders.** A\$30 - Y\$12 Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Shane Romain and David Wimpfheimer

(Continued)

Oxidation Ponds & Indian Fishery

Sun 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

This field trip will visit two of Chico's best birding sites and is appropriate for beginning to advanced birders. First we will explore the Oxidation Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary at the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant, which now has limited access to the public. We'll spend a couple of hours walking the levees around the ponds 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 turtles. Bring binoculars, water, & snacks. **This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Saturday with different leaders.**

A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: TBA

Birds, Plants, & History in Bidwell Park **NEW**

Sun 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Bidwell Park's famous One Mile Recreation Area is home to Caper Acres Playground and the Sycamore Restoration Area. This guided walk will provide the history of the area while naming and explaining a variety of plants and bird species. Along the way, Native American uses of plants will also be explained. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars will be available to borrow. A\$15 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Heidi Gysin

Raptor Run

Sun 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

The Northern Sacramento River Valley hosts a large assortment of raptors that during our relatively mild, wet winters is augmented by an almost equally large contingent of wintering species, some of which exploit our fantastic cohort of wintering waterfowl and others the vast expanses of grasslands and fallow ag lands. January is one of the best months for raptor viewing in Butte County; accordingly, we will caravan southward along Hwy 99 to the environs south of Chico to seek as many of these birds of prey as we can. Target species include Bald and Golden Eagles, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Merlin, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Burrowing Owl. Dress for potentially cold, wet weather; bring a scope if you have one; and binoculars are a **MUST! Carpooling is mandatory to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. This trip is also offered on Wednesday and Saturday with different leaders.** A\$25 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Michelle Ocken and Gary Nielsen

Wing-It to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Sun 10:00 am - 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\$27 - Y\$10 Level 2

Field Trip Leader: Michael Denega

Eagle Roost Safari

Sun 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Meet at (Directions provided at bottom of registration confirmation email)

Eagles, falcons, Burrowing Owls, and more are likely to be seen when you sign up for this spectacular foothill adventure on the 8500-acre private ranch located just minutes from Chico. Nestled in the breathtaking backdrop of the volcanic canyons and buttes of the Sierra/Cascade foothills, you will ride comfortably in the back of an open-air, safari-style vehicle to view and bird your way towards the highlight of the tour, which is viewing the evening arrival of up to 50 Bald Eagles coming to roost after a day of foraging throughout the valley floor. Cozy up by the fire or heater as you enjoy catered appetizers and small seasonal plates featuring local foods and fine beverages with your group of friends to witness this special eagle event. Guided by [Sacramento River Ecotours](#), these trips are limited to one group of up to 10 per day. These daily excursions begin at 2 pm at the ranch clubhouse and end approximately an hour after dark. All ages are welcome. There are some bumpy ranch roads throughout the tour route; however, there are comfortable cushioned seats for each guest. In the event of wet and rainy conditions, some portions of the tour route will be eliminated if they are too muddy to drive without causing damage to the roads. Should this occur, a short and gentle half-mile walk may be required to reach the eagle viewing site. Come join us for this exciting and exclusive outdoor birding adventure. **For more information, call Henry Lomeli at (530) 864-8594. This same trip is offered every day of the Festival. \$125**

Level 2

Field Trip Leaders: Henry Lomeli and Lindsay Wood

Sunday, January 27 Presentations/Workshops

Chico Backyard Birds

Sun 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

I never saw a bird like that in my backyard before, is it rare? What happened to that nice singer that spent most of the spring in my yard? I swear I saw a canary in my yard! Could it have escaped from a cage? 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\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: John "Mac" McCormick*

Build a LEGO Bird!

Sun 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

Swoop into our collection of thousands of LEGO to design and customize your own LEGO bird creation. Then attach your bird to our zip line to watch it "fly" across the room. After a brief compare and contrast between real bird flight and LEGO bird flight, Play-Well TEKnologies instructors Amber Drake and Matthew Greening will assist kids with designing, building, and "flying" LEGO birds. While participants do not get to keep their creations, they do get to play and build with our massive LEGO collection and develop skills and inspiration that they can apply to building at home. **Youth ages 6-12 welcome.** (LEGO is a registered trademark of the LEGO Group.) Y\$10 *Presenters: Matthew Greening and Amber Drake*

Ranges, Movements, & Migration of Peregrine Falcons in Plumas County, CA **NEW**

Sun 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Meet at Chico Masonic Family Center

During the first half of the 20th century, the Peregrine Falcon became endangered because of widespread use of pesticides. However, since the ban of DDT in the early 1970's and through massive conservation, the Peregrine has rebounded, adapted to many human-altered landscapes, and become a success story of the Endangered Species Act. In this presentation, we will summarize our on-going research of Peregrine Falcons in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and provide details related to population status, movement ecology, foraging, site fidelity, and other behaviors. A\$12 - Y\$5 *Presenter: Colin Dillingham*