OLLI Birdwatching Basics in Bidwell Park
Karen L Smith, Peer Leader
Pamela Waldsmith, Classroom Host

This class is for OLLI members with little or no bird watching experience.

Please Note: If for some reason you are unable to attend this course, please unenroll on the OLLI website and let me know. There are several members on the waitlist for this class. Thank you so much.

There are a few changes from the OLLI Preview. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Margaret Rader will not be classroom host, but rather Pamela Waldsmith will join us for the Spring Semester.

The location where we will meet for each class has changed. We will NOT meet at the Chico Nature Center as originally planned due to high traffic (bikes, people and dogs). We will meet at 5-Mile. Please see below.

When: Classes are held on Tuesdays and scheduled for: February 11 & 25; March 10 & 24; April 7 & 21, 2020

Where: All classes will begin and end at Five Mile Picnic Area, 357 Centennial Avenue, Bidwell Park

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Distance and ability: We will walk 1-2 miles slowly, mostly on paved ground but sometimes on trails off the paved path. Be prepared to walk on leaves and sometimes uneven ground.

What to wear: Wear layers. It is cool in the morning. Wear shoes with good traction.

What to bring: Binoculars*, water, snacks, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

*There will be a limited number of binoculars for loan during the class, so please bring your own if you have them. Binoculars will enhance your learning experience and are highly recommended. Please let me know if you need to borrow binoculars at least two days BEFORE the class begins.

Reference: “The Birds of Bidwell Park” by Roger Lederer, PhD
As we walk through the park, we will reference many of the birds mentioned in Dr. Lederer’s book. It is not a requirement to buy the book but it will enhance your experience and learning. If you want to purchase the book, you may do so at Made in Chico and The Bookstore on Main.

What you will learn:
- How to use binoculars
- Bird watching guidelines in a group
- Bird identification such as shape, color, size, sound, habitat and behavior
- Field marks
- Range maps
- How to use bird identification field guides and apps

2/5/2020
Bios

Karen L Smith – Peer Leader
Karen Smith is a lifelong birder and loves nature. Three years ago, after attending the annual Snow Goose Festival, she moved to Chico from the bay area due to Chico’s rich habitat of bird life and its location on the Pacific Flyway. She has traveled to Baja, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and several locations within the United States to learn about birds. Karen currently co-leads a bird watching group with Newcomers Club of Chico. She enjoys teaching new birders how to identify and appreciate the birds around them.

Pam Waldsmith – Classroom Host
Pamela Waldsmith, a retired educator, enjoys a variety of interests including: birding, wildlife photography, hiking, kayaking and pickleball to name a few. She is a member of Audubon and leads educational and birding trips for Chico’s Snow Goose Festival each year. Pamela enjoys leading hikes and teaching kayaking skills to OLLI members. Her passion for birds has taken her to the Platte River in Nebraska to witness the majesty of 500,000 Sandhill Cranes, and to Calamus Ranch to photograph Prairie Chickens in their mating ritual.