



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society

MARCH 2025

Shasta Birding Society

Photo Contest

Winner gets a prize!



Scan or click link to Submit Photo*

<https://shorturl.at/LSol4>

Then tune into our monthly program

MARCH 12
7:00 PM

Turtle Bay Nursery Classroom,
1125 Arboretum Drive, Redding
or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88053018239>

To vote, learn the winner, and see the wild birds and places of Northern California

Submissions Due March 4th - Questions? Email webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org

*Maximum 3 entries per person



We have a couple of great presenters for you this month, Dan Bye and Julie Doerr. Also, make sure you get your photos submitted by Tuesday, March 4th. Submit up to three images [HERE!](#)

Hogsback Road (West End), Red Bluff, Ca (Our Diamond in the Rough) - Daniel Bye began his interest in birdwatching while attending Natural Resource courses at Shasta College in 1980. New knowledge on field studies and field trips really sparked a tremendous appreciation of the natural world and created a great respect for the world of birds and the vital role they play in all ecosystems. He would make time for birding through the 90's which was challenging while raising a family and keeping pace with his career. A few years after Y2K, and a move to Red Bluff provided more freedom to pick up that pace to become a better birder. The goal was always the same, find great locations to make observations, and pay attention to each species behavior, habits, habitat, and zero in on a proper identification.

In 2014, Daniel discovered Merlin and eBird, two applications developed by Cornell Ornithology Labs. It was a gamechanger and an easy path to becoming an eBirder. These apps opened a huge opportunity to advance more into Citizen Science. Photography has always been an extension to birding. Daniel started out with a digiscope setup, which works great when your subject is willing to sit still long enough to position a scope and mount a smart phone with an adapter to snap photos. Eventually it was time to upgrade to digital photography. The learning curve has been long but a camera is a great tool to a birder when the subject is just a little out of reach and when you need an advantage on that positive ID. The world of photography is a great forum of enjoyment when the subject you have photographed is poised in nature in a way it was intended to be seen.

A Chance Encounter with a Wandering White Wagtail - In October 2024 Julie was birding in Humboldt County and came upon a White Wagtail. Her presentation will cover the discovery and identification of the Wagtail, birding strategies and tools used, the power of social media, lessons learned about birding etiquette, and an introduction to the Humboldt area birding community.

Shasta Birding Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Shasta Birding Society Photo Contest

Time: Mar 12, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88053018239>

Meeting ID: 880 5301 8239

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,88053018239# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,88053018239# US

Dial by your location

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 689 278 1000 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 880 5301 8239

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88053018239>

The meeting venue

With gratitude to McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, The Shasta Birding Society will meet in the brand new Turtle Bay Nursery Classroom, 1125 Arboretum Drive, Redding.

There is lots of free, paved parking just steps away from the classroom building, and nice, curbed sidewalks. To get to the new venue, from South Market Street, turn east onto Arboretum Drive. Veer right at the first opportunity (so you don't end up at Turtle Bay Elementary School!), and drive a short way to the "curvy" parking lot to the east of Arboretum Drive.



The Nursery Classroom is just inside a large wrought-iron double gate, which is just north of the entrance to the botanical gardens proper.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! These are our recent generous donors: Bruce & Martha Webb, Pablo and Alicia Herrera, and Jaci White - Thank You!

Donations can be made either through our PayPal link or by check at Shasta Birding Society, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533

California Audubon Board Welcomes One Of Our Own Into Their Advisory Board

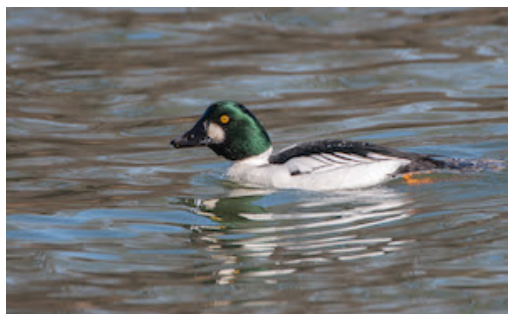
Shasta Birding Society Co-Conservation Chair, Rebeca Ladron de Guevara, spent a couple days in Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in the bay with the California Audubon Board. In this meeting, Rebeca was voted into the advisory Board as Northern California representative. Rebeca will ensure that all seven chapters in the region, including Shasta Birding Society, and their interests are voiced and heard in California Audubon's decision-making process regarding land, conservation, representation and anything else which may impact our birds and their habitat. She will also be privy to new and exciting education and conservation projects around California, and she will tell us all about them.

To learn more about the wonder that is Richardson Bay, "the ground zero for wintering waterbirds and Pacific herring in the San Francisco Bay" visit Richardson Bay

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Note: If you have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 10 days you must provide a certificate of vaccination or negative test results no longer than 72 hours prior to and as a requirement to participating in these events.

Turtle Bay County Bird Outing / Trinity River Hatchery and More - Saturday, March 1st @ 8am - 5pm



No Fee Event - We have decided to move this event out due to severe weather forecast for this Sunday. We still plan to visit the same four Trinity County Hotspots on Saturday, March 1st. We will meet at the [Redding Civic Auditorium parking lot](#) at 8am on the west side. For anyone interested in a ride for the whole event. I have room for two persons so please contact me in advance if you would like one of these seats. Plan for is for a departure at 8am sharp. We will take a lunch break after birding Trinity River Hatchery so please bring a lunch. Birding Outing Details: We will drive straight to 'Lewiston-

Lowden Ranch Historic Site' arriving at 9am. Pindrop: [Lowden Ranch Historic Site](#) - Depart at 10:40am. Drive 15 minutes to 'Trinity River Hatchery' arriving at 11am. Pindrop: [Trinity River Hatchery](#) - Have Lunch then depart at 1:30pm. Drive 30 minutes to 'Weaverville WTP' arrive at 2pm. Pin Drop: [Weaverville WTP](#) - Depart at 2:55pm Drive a very short distance to 'Weaverville Basin Wetlands' at 3pm.

Pindrop: [Weaverville Basin Wetlands](#) - Depart at 4pm, with a Trinity County Bird Outing / Trinity River Hatchery and More 1 hour estimated time back to Redding. Everyone is welcome to join and if you wish to partake for all or only part of the venues we are planning to visit, please make sure to let us know. Trip Leader, danbye56@gmail.com and please use 'Trinity River Bird Outing' in the subject of email. We are looking forward to seeing you there. We will reschedule based on weather conditions if necessary.



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society

WE GOT YOU COVERED!



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society.org

Shasta Birding Society Presents

SECOND SATURDAY BEGINNER AND FAMILY FRIENDLY BIRD WALKS

JOIN us at the benches by the Sundial bridge at 9 am to walk the Turtle Bay Sanctuary Trail and discover the hidden world of birds all around us!

MARCH • 8
APRIL • 12
MAY • 10

**BINOCULARS
PROVIDED!**



Turtle Bay Second Saturday Bird Walk - Saturday, March 8th @ 8:00 am

Always wanted to learn more about birds but not sure where to start? Join Shasta Birding Society for a family and beginner friendly bird walk at the benches by the Sundial bridge at 9 am to walk the Turtle Bay Sanctuary Trail and discover the hidden world of birds all around us! The trail is wheelchair accessible and benches are found throughout. The walk will last about 2 hours. Field guides and binoculars are provided. Join our program chair, Katherine Larson, and Stephanie Hughes, our education chair, as we take a leisurely one mile walk along the Turtle Bay Sanctuary Trail. This walk will begin at the south end of the Sundial

Bridge and take us along the Sacramento River to view waterfowl and possibly gulls, egrets and herons. One of the best attributes of this trail is that we cannot only enjoy the excellent views along the river, on the other side of the trail we will be able to find several species of songbirds. Raptors are common in the area, including the Bald Eagle and Osprey. Park in the [Turtle Bay Parking Lot](#). Rain cancels. Want more information? Contact Katherine at katherinelarson01@gmail.com

Turtle Bay Bilingual Birding - Sunday, March 9th @ 8:00 am

SACRAMENTO RIVER BEND

PASEO DE AVES BILINGÜE
BILINGUAL BIRDING TRIP



SÁBADO 12 DE OCTUBRE -- 8 AM

@ BASS POND PARKING AREA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH -- 8 AM

Todos los participantes deben registrarse y firmar un formulario de autorización de Altacal.

All participants must register and sign an Altacal liability waiver.

Llame (530) 965-1325 para inscribirse al paseo en Español
To register, please go to: Altacal.org/calendar and click on the Zeffy sign up link

Join Shasta Birding Society for a bilingual bird walk at the benches by the Sundial bridge at 9:30 am to walk the Turtle Bay Sanctuary Trail. Spanish and English speaking guides will help you identify birds in both English and Spanish. The trail is wheelchair accessible and benches are found throughout. The walk will last about 2 hours. Bilingual field guides and binoculars are provided.

Únase a Shasta Birding Society para una caminata bilingüe de aves en los bancos junto al puente Sundial a las 9:30 am para recorrer el sendero Turtle Bay Sanctuary. Los guías de habla española e inglesa le ayudarán a identificar aves tanto en inglés como en español. El sendero es accesible para sillas de ruedas y hay bancos por todas partes. La caminata durará unas 2 horas. Se proporcionan guías de campo y binoculares bilingües. Llame (909) 712-0208 si tiene preguntas.

Payne's Creek Wetlands - Saturday, March 15th @ 7:30 to 11:00 am

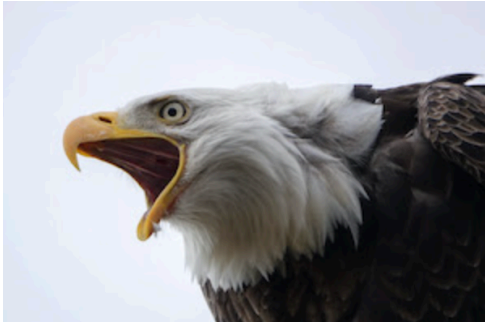


This is a no fee area and a very active hotspot this time of the year, especially with all the recent weather events we have had in early 2025 so far. We are planning to meet at the Bass Pond Parking Lot at, 22459 Bend Ferry Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080, at the main entrances to the Wetlands. Link: [Paynes Creek Wetland-Bass Pond](#). This half-day event should yield many varieties of waterbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, and many songbirds in this unique and open wetlands area. From the parking lot we will start with a walk on a two-mile loop through several ponds to the south side of the road. If time permits, we will take a short drive to Payne's Creek Crossing to round out our journey. Please contact Dan Bye, by text/cell 530 228 9373 or email danbye56@gmail.com for more information.

Lema Ranch - Saturday, March 22nd at 8:00 am



The wide-open vistas, grassy fields, large ponds and oak woodlands of Lema Ranch offer quite a variety of bird species. Winter waterfowl, woodpeckers and sparrows are a particular treat this time of year and if we're lucky, we might spot a Canvasback or a Merlin! Meet at 8:00 am at Gate 10 located at the end of Lema Road, just past the maintenance facility. Park on the right-hand side of the road by the maintenance facility. We will walk the paved trails to view all five ponds. There is a bathroom located near Gate 10. Rain cancels the outing. Contact Larry Jordan at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org for more information.



Location of where we will meet: Parking area at 24411 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd, Anderson, CA 96007 – Drop Pin [Coleman Fish Hatchery](#) - Walking distance total estimated at 2.5-3 miles (4-5 km). We will walk through sections of the fish hatchery and exit at the west gate to enter Battle Creek Salmon Trail. This 1.4-mile path will provide great access around ponds and views along Battle Creek with exceptional sections of riparian habitat. We will quickly enter Battle Creek Wildlife Area where we will join the Oaktree Trail for an additional 1.2-mile walk through large tracts of oaks, willows, and many other native and non-native plants and trees. Under ideal conditions, we should see many

waterbirds, raptors, and passerines within this 582-acre area of exploration. One vehicle will be staged at parking area of Battle Creek Wildlife Area, and drivers will be shuttled back to Coleman Fish Hatchery parking lot and pick up others at the end of our walk. We will reschedule if rained out.

Trip Leader: Dan Bye, contact me by danbye56@gmail.com for more information.

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

from Bruce Webb, Conservation Co-Chair

In last month's SBS Newsletter, we described our concern about the proposal to expand the Hawes Ranch amusement center, located at the southeast corner of Deschutes and Dersch roads east of Anderson. The rezoning would legitimize and expand operations at the site to include public events and “agritainment” including carnival rides, tent and RV camping, corporate retreats, and open-air concerts for up to 10,000 attendees on occasion. The environmental documentation for the project failed to provide any mechanism to prevent activities and events near or within the floodplain, and close to prime bird nesting habitat adjacent the Sacramento River and Stillwater and Cow creeks. Concerts and events could create noise, disturbing nesting birds, with no expert oversight of stage orientation, noise or dust levels to minimize impacts. SBS filed a comment letter [please follow this link to see the letter] objecting to the approval of the project without a verifiable means to assure events will be staged, oriented and scheduled to minimize impacts on nesting birds and wildlife. On February 25th, Shasta County Supervisors sent the project back to the County Planning Commission to concur with changes they directed, including excluding the riparian habitat and flood plain zone from any event activity, requiring a permit when events occur near these habitats, and specifying a noise level limit. We will continue to follow the project and comment as needed to assure the project minimizes any potential bird and wildlife impacts. Our advocacy may have influenced the project outcome to lessen impacts on sensitive habitats.

TRIP REPORTS

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on February 8th



Three bundled birders braved near freezing temperatures to gather a total of fifty-nine species under clear skies at the wastewater treatment plant. There was more water in the ponds than I had ever seen at this location as the Barrow's Goldeneyes swam in the first concrete enclosure along with Lesser Scaup. We identified three species of gulls including Ring-billed, American Herring, and California, as they covered the paths between the enclosures. Nearly a hundred American Wigeon graced the ponds along with several Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye. There was one Bald Eagle at the nest sight across the river, but the best raptor sighting we observed were two Red-

tailed Hawks performing courtship displays in the air.

Bird Blind Dedication at Turtle Bay on February 15th



A large group of friends gathered to remember Bill Oliver as we dedicated the Turtle Bay Bird Blind, located just east of the sundial bridge. He was remembered as one of the founding fathers of the Wintu Audubon Society, now known as the Shasta Birding Society. Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara, our Co-Conservation Chair MC'd the event, Dan Greaney gave a great intro about how the bird blind came to be, and Bill's son David shared personal stories of his father. Dan then led a bird walk along the Turtle Bay Sanctuary Trail as we observed thirty-nine species, including excellent views of Barrow's Goldeneyes, Bald Eagles, Osprey and many others.

Llano Seco NWR on February 22nd



What started out as a single destination trip, ended up being extended to a multi-location adventure. Our team of five enjoyed great weather and fun birding various locations of Butte County starting at Llano Seco NWR. We observed 37 species from Marsh Wren to Sandhill Crane. We began at the main platform observation deck where waterbirds could be seen in all directions. Our raptors of the early morning were Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Northern Harrier. The trees around the deck were filled with Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, and Black Phoebe. As we adventured from the deck to the back ponds, we noticed White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, and Brewer's Blackbird. Once we reach the back ponds we found American Pipit, Virginia Rail, Tree Swallow, and Killdeer. Our high-count species were Snow Goose, White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and American Coot. We had a hot tip on a

Black-bellied Plover down southeast, which we never found, but along the way we found another 8 species. Traveling the back sections on Nelson Rd, we saw Belted Kingfisher, Dunlin (high count), White-faced Ibis, Ring-billed Gull, and Red-tailed Hawk. We made one final stop at Tuscan Preserve to survey the status of Burrowing Owl. We are happy to report there were 2 individuals sited in the area. Our total for the outing effort 4 locations on 5 checklists, tallied 46 species.

