



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

**Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Shasta
and eastern portions of Trinity County, California**

OCTOBER 2024



Fall is the time we renew Shasta Birding Society memberships. Please renew your membership with a donation of time or money now. The monthly programs, field trips, and conservation actions that the chapter undertakes are possible only because of member donations.

Time donations: These can be as small or large as you choose, and are always valuable. We appreciate collegial input centered on birds/wildlife and the members of our community.

Current openings:

Field Trip Committee - help schedule and/or lead field trips

Program Committee - help schedule and/or conduct monthly programs. Topics range around birds and the natural world—biology, ecology, beauty, etc.

Education Committee - community/youth outreach; currently involved in biodiversity, church, and bilingual events

Conservation Committee - currently negotiating for wildlife as Redding contemplates Turtle Bay development; monitoring Medicine Lake Monument proposal; etc.

Publicity - assist webmaster with social media updates

Numerous other Board and non-Board volunteer opportunities that help us deliver our programs!

Please contact Dan Greaney, 530-276-9693 or greaneys@yahoo.com

Cash donations: Requested amount is \$20-\$30, which can be given via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) at shastabirdingsociety.org or mailed to Shasta Birding Society, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533.

Thank you! Please be in touch!
Dan Greaney, Secretary
Shasta Birding Society

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

We changed local membership fees from dues to donations awhile back. This gives members greater flexibility in supporting the chapter, and simplifies our book-keeping.

We invite all members to make a local donation when you become a member, at the beginning of our fall season, and/or anytime during the year.
Thank you for your generous September donations: Rita Giesker, Lynn Bancroft, and Larry Jordan!

OCTOBER 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 Bird Sanctuary Walk - Saturday, October 5th @ 7:30 am



Join your trip leader, Larry Jordan, for a morning walk through Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary. Meet at the parking lot south of the Monolith at 7:30 am. We will explore the ponds along Highway 44, followed by the forested areas in the Bird Sanctuary and along the Sacramento River, searching for early migrants and waterfowl. Contact Larry Jordan at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org



Bend Bilingual Bird Walk - Saturday, October 12th @ 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](https://www.altacal.org/calendar) and click on the Zeffy sign up link

Leaders: Jared Geiser, Rebeca Ladron de Guevara, Oscar Rodriguez, David Garza
AltaCal is partnering with BLM biologists, and the Shasta Birding Society to offer a bilingual birding trip around the Paynes Creek Wetland Area. This is a beginner friendly trip suitable for anyone interested in birds and exploring this unique and beautiful wetland area near Paynes Creek in the BLM Sacramento River Bend area in Tehama County. We will observe the wetland ecosystems here discussing the birds and ecological interactions we see, in both Spanish and English. We will meet at the Bass Pond Parking Area on Bend Ferry Road at 8:00 am. Se habla Español! **Llame (530) 965-1325 para inscribirse al paseo en Español.** To register

for this field trip, click on the Zeffy sign up link for this trip:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketin/eefa703d-0a63-4667-85fa-0b62e159ee9e>

Return of the Salmon Festival - Saturday, October 19th @ 9 am to 3 pm



Join us as we celebrate the annual Return of the Salmon Festival at Coleman National Fish Hatchery, 24411 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd. in Anderson. This family-friendly event is free to the public and will have over 50 booths with information and activities. View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths

and much more. Shasta Birding Society will be there with a booth, handing out information on birds and the chapter and engaging families with hands-on activities. For more info call 530-365-8622 or contact Laura Mahoney at <https://www.fws.gov/staff-profile/laura-mahoney>. If you can spare a couple hours to help staff our booth, please contact Education Chair Stephanie Hughes at – shughess123@gmail.com

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - Saturday, October 26th @ 7:30 am



We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating warblers. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 7:30 am sharp to meet your leader, Dan Bye. This is a 1/2-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good.

Directions to the Clear Creek Plant: Take Hwy 273 south, after crossing Clear Creek and past the Win-River Casino, take the second left turn at River Ranch Road and cross over the railroad tracks. Turn left on Eastside Rd. Entrance is at 2200 Metz Road on the right. Questions? danbye56@gmail.com

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

**from Bruce Webb & Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara
Conservation Co-Chairs**

Some of you have asked what was decided regarding the Barred Owl Strategy Plan to Protect Spotted Owls. Please read the August 28th, 2024 announcement from USFWS with the finalized plan below. Due to the complexity of this issue and the variety of competing opinions from other chapter boards, the SBS board elected at its April 3rd 2024 meeting to take no position in support or opposition to the proposed management plan.

The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a final decision to adopt the Barred Owl Management Strategy](#). This is the first comprehensive tool to address the substantial barred owl threat to imperiled northern and California spotted owls in Washington, Oregon and California.

The strategy calls for a step-by-step process, relying on willing land managers and landowners to manage barred owls. If the strategy achieves full participation for the entire 30-year period, it would result in removal from less than one percent of the current barred owl range in North America.

Under our Migratory Bird Treaty Act permit, the Service may designate interested Tribes, federal and state agencies, companies, or specific landowners to implement [barred owl management](#) on their lands if the actions are consistent with the strategy, the conditions of the permit, and state laws and policies. Those implementing the plan will be accountable to the Service for annual monitoring and reporting, and we will continually monitor and evaluate implementation efforts along the way.

The strategy does not allow public hunting of barred owls.

More information is available on the Service's barredowl management website, including the final strategy, Record of Decision, and frequently asked questions.

A notice of availability for the final strategy and Record of Decision will be published in the coming days in the Federal Register at

<https://www.regulations.gov> at [Docket No.FWS-R1-ES-2022-0074](#).

TRIP REPORTS

Anderson River Park on September 7th



Four early birders enjoyed fair weather, casual walking, and great views throughout the trails of Anderson River Park. A big shout out goes to, Ashley, a new area birder that joined us for her first time. This half-day event finished with total count of 44 species. We were first greeted by Lewis's Woodpecker the moment we were ready to start our journey. The pond areas shared our typical wading species of Great Blue Heron and Great Egret along with a Pied-billed Grebe. We were especially entertained by Belted Kingfisher showing off their acrobatic skills in

pursuit of their prey of fish. The Sacramento River along the north edge of the trail was staged with plenty of Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Wood Duck, Mallard, Spotted Sandpiper, and a flyby of Double-crested Cormorant. Our travels through the blanket of riparian habitat were amazing with many Yellow and Orange-crowned Warbler, House and Bewick's Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker. We also had some great popup observations of Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Tree Swallows, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Cedar Waxwing.

John Reginato River Access on September 14th



Ten overheated birders met on a scorching 103 degree evening at Whiskeytown for a record-breaking hot annual picnic. We probably should have done a bird sit while relaxing in the creek, but we toughed it out and walked the Camden Water Ditch Trail around the historic district, finding a surprising 29 species. Best in show were the three Bullock's Orioles and the mama Common Merganser with her extremely cute entourage of eleven little ones.

Sacramento River Trail on September 21st

We had a slow meander along the river trail, from Keswick Dam to the Diestelhorst Bridge. On this warm last day of summer, sunshine was plentiful and we encountered 56 species of birds. We started the morning off with a nice greeting from a Rock Wren at the trailhead, including a salute from a "gulp" of cormorants that flew overhead. We continued with Lark Sparrows, and water birds such as Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, and Green Herons. Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers loafed on the gravel bars, and raptors like Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels patrolled the river



overhead. Along the entire trail was an abundance of Black Phoebes and Anna's Hummingbirds, who were feasting with abandon on the large population of flying insects near the water's edge. Though the day was very warm, we could sense summer coming to an end with the arrival of White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and the congregation of our most common Warblers (Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's) preparing for their long journey

south.

Red Bluff Recreation Area on September 28th



One of our core groups of five Birders showed up ready to explore what Red Bluff Rec Area had to offer. The day started out cool, calm, and clear for birding and provided us with a total count of 58 species. Our full walk along the woodland oak trails we were excited to see many Warbler, Wren, and Woodpecker Species. Present

for viewing were the Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Along with House and Bewick's Wren and Wrentit. And with a proper showing of Acorn, Nuttall's Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker. Raptors were well represented by Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned, and Swainson's Hawk, Turkey Vulture, and American Kestrel. Continuing through the woodland area, we had a great showing of California Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, American and Lesser Goldfinch. Rounding off with Lark, White-crowned, Savannah, and Song Sparrow plus California and Spotted Towhee. As our travels extended along the Sacramento River, we could hear and see very large waves of Greater White-fronted Goose flying at extreme heights. Many Canada Goose in flyover formations and Common Merganser patrolling for food in the river. Rapidly moving Forster's Tern flying eagerly downstream above the river. We spotted Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, and Spotted Sandpiper. Green Heron, Great Egret, and Double-crested Cormorant were all great surprises to find. Our bird of the month should be the Black Phoebe. On all this month's field trips were located along the Sacramento River, and the Black Phoebe was very present and seen in high numbers.



TURKEY VULTURE MIGRATION

youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=KZOF5f9EnZQ

