



# ***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**



We still have a few events coming up. Our last regular scheduled trip will be to [Burney Falls and Baum Lake](#) on June 1st. [Our annual picnic](#) is always a fun afternoon get together with a bring-your-own dinner followed by a bird walk on the Camden Water Ditch Trail. This is a one-mile dirt trail that loops around the historic Camden House, Tenant Farm House, barn and outbuildings. Hiking boots are recommended. We hope to see Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, and maybe an American Dipper. In July we join Altacal and other Audubon chapters at [Lost Creek Group Campground in Lassen Volcanic National Park](#). Species likely to see or hear, include Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Vaux's Swift, Common Nighthawk, Bufflehead, Canada Jay, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager and Cassin's Finch.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial Park and Baum Lake Field Trip, Saturday, June 1st at 8:30 am



Our annual McArthur-Burney Falls field trip for this year will be limited due to closures of the park's Falls Loop Trail. For this reason, we will start our day at the Falls followed by a quick trip to Baum Lake which also includes a small section of Crystal Lake. Our goals for this full day event are as follows:

At McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP, we will venture north on the Rim Trail overseeing the views across and down Burney Falls canyon along the backside east of Rim Campground. Our target species on this morning walk includes Black Swifts, Osprey, Pileated, Hairy, and White-headed Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, many

Warblers, and Flycatchers. At Baum Lake we will hike the small trail on the west shore that travels northbound. Midway is an intersection at the north shore of Crystal Lake another short trail that travels westbound. What does this all mean? This is our best attempt to locate nesting Purple Martins and search for passerines and various Warbler, Wren, Blackbird, and Oriole, as well as waterbirds like Egret, Heron, Goose and Duck Species.

We will meet at [Safeway in Burney](#) at 8:30 sharp and depart immediately together to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. Please contact Dan Bye by email: [danbye56@gmail.com](mailto:danbye56@gmail.com) with any questions or if you need other contact information.

#### **Regarding concerns with trail closures and traffic conditions at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial Park.**

We do hope you can make it to our season ending SBS's field trip, on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are aware of the concerns surrounding the trails and roads at and around McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial Park.

According to California State Parks' Press Release: The Fall Loop and Burney Creek trails will be closed. However, Rim Trail, General Store, and Fisherman's Bridge will remain open to provide access to and from park via the Pacific Crest Trail.

To avoid the road construction this year, our plan is simple. Carpool and Access the Falls area via the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) west of the park.

- Reduce the number of vehicles by meeting at Safeway Market in Burney, @ 8:30 for carpooling. I have room for 3-4 people in my car.
- Take a side road which accesses the PCT just a short distance away from Burney Falls at Fisherman's Bridge. From there we continue on Rim Trail and loop back to the General Store for lunch. Please remember to bring sack lunch or you can purchase something at the store.
- After we complete our journey of Burney Falls, we will take a short drive to Baum/Crystal Lake.



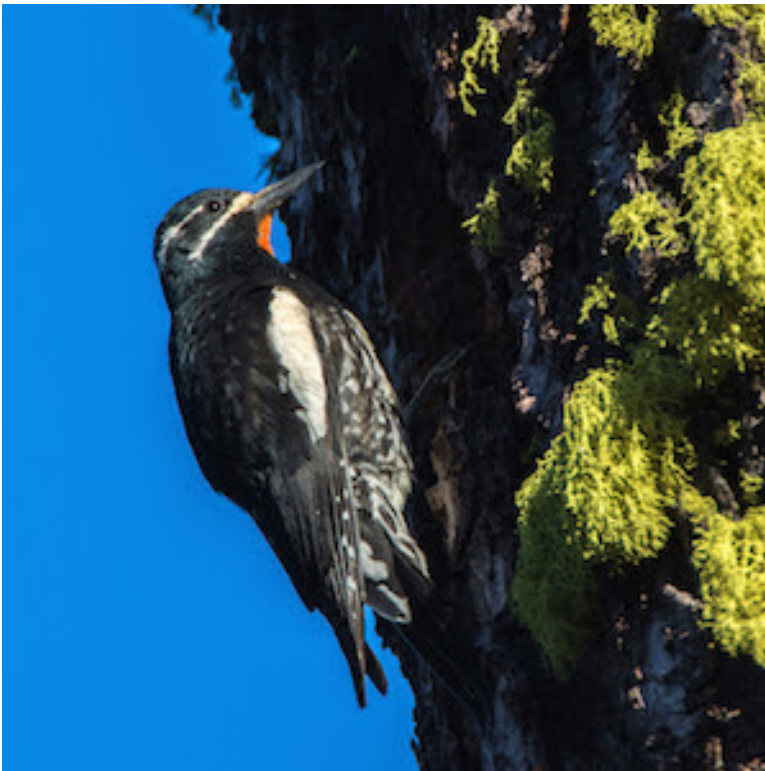
## Shasta Birding Society Picnic - Wednesday, June 12th @ 6:00 pm



Join us for our traditional end of the season picnic at the Camden House in the Tower House Historic District at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 12th. It is located on the south side of Highway 299 West just west of the turnoff to French Gulch. Bring your own brown bag dinner and we will eat by the creek and then go birding on the Camden Water Ditch Trail. This is a one-mile dirt trail that loops around the historic Camden House, Tenant Farm House, barn and outbuildings. Hiking boots are recommended. We hope to see Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, and maybe an

American Dipper. An entrance pass is required to use the area and can be purchased online at [Your Pass Now](#). Senior, Access, Military and the Interagency Annual Pass can also be used. Contact trip leader Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

## Lassen Volcanic National Park Lost Creek Group Campground - July 19th - 21st



AltaCal Audubon will be camping and birding in Lassen VNP with the Shasta Birding Society, and other Audubon chapters. [Lost Creek Group Campsite #5](#) has been reserved for the nights of Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20. Campers can arrive at the campsite on Friday after the 1pm check-in and check-out by noon on Sunday, July 21. Species likely to see or hear, include Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Vaux's Swift, Common Nighthawk, Bufflehead, Canada Jay, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager and Cassin's Finch, plus more. We will bird Manzanita Lake, Hat Creek, Summit Peak, and Kings Creek areas and the rest of the itinerary is open and will depend on the interests of the participants. Lost Creek Group

Campground has primitive facilities, pit toilets, and potable water is available. Group size is limited. If you would like to join us, contact Karen Smith, [birds4ks@gmail.com](mailto:birds4ks@gmail.com) to sign up and for more details.



## TRIP REPORTS

### Newville Ponds – Buckhorn Campground at Black Butte Lake Recreational Area – May 5th



In a very dense fog, two birders met at Newville Ponds to their survey of the greater southwest section of Black Butte Lake Recreation Area. We selected two areas of Newville Lower Ponds and yielded 47 species. The fog lifted quickly which allowed us to spot numerous warblers like Wilson's, Townsend's, Yellow, Orange-crowned, and Common Yellowthroat. We had a couple of surprises by locating American Bittern, Black-crowned Night and Green Heron as well as high numbers of Great Blue Heron and Great Egret. Raptors represented by American Kestrel, Osprey,

and plenty of Turkey Vulture. Buckhorn Campground proved to be active with 36 species ranging from Pied-billed, Western, and Clark's Grebe, along with Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker. Continually, we saw Tree, Cliff, and Barn Swallows, Oak Titmouse, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Flycatchers like Black Phoebe, Ash-throated, and Western Kingbird. Our total for the solid morning of bird viewing ended with 64 in all.

### Birding Basics at Turtle Bay on May 8th



We were bombarded by a strong wind carrying fluffy cottonwood seeds on our final walk of the season around the Sundial Bridge area. As usual, we found almost 40 species, busily going about their breeding season. A Spotted Sandpiper, its breast fully polka-dotted, displayed from a log in the river. Two adult Black Phoebes fed their three fledged young, bright mouths agape, from a broken branch in a quiet inlet. A Bushtit gathered cottonwood fluff to line its hanging sack nest. The Western Bluebirds that we witnessed last month building a nest were now frantically feeding their new brood in the oak tree hole. Our patience was finally rewarded after trying for 15 minutes or so to discover the location of the Bullock's Orioles singing near our stakeout spot on the bridge. It turned out that they were right below us in a small oak tree! We had a good laugh at that.

## Dye Creek Preserve & Foothill Road on May 11th



Eleven birders had a rather exciting morning on the way to Dye Creek Preserve. Julie Doerr once again showed her birding prowess as she spotted a rare bird on Foothill Road. A Black-throated Sparrow (a lifer for me), last seen in Tehema County in 2011. Thanks to David Garza for his perseverance finding the bird again so we could all see it close up and take photos! We tallied 44 species on Foothill Road before the day warmed up to the mid-nineties. At the preserve we were greeted with a Red-tailed Hawk and a Bald Eagle before beginning our hike. About half way to the cave at the end of the trail we got excellent looks of a Canyon Wren that followed us for a spell. We

stopped at the creek crossing for lunch and to cool down before heading up to the cave where we were greeted by Cliff Swallows that were building nests in the cave ceiling. The best birds of the day were Black-throated Sparrow, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, Tri-colored Blackbird, Western Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole, with a total of 53 species for the day!

## Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 18th



A warm morning provided a lot of sunshine for six birders at the Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment plant on May 18th. Migratory birds had moved on leaving lots of summer residents pairing up, nesting and fighting. Large numbers of Cedar Waxwings were evident near the administration building and flying over the grounds. Many loud Bullock's Orioles were scolding in the oaks on both sides of the ponds. The thistle heads that have gone to seed in the middle ponds were providing food and cover for Lesser Goldfinches, House Finches, Mourning Doves, and Lazuli Buntings. Ever-present Killdeer were scolding the birders along the gravel roads

while Western Kingbirds and Northern Mockingbirds were at each other in the open fields. A total of 47 species tallied for the morning.



## Grace and Nora Lakes on May 25th



We had a pleasant and chilly May morning of birding at Grace and Nora Lakes in Shingletown. Migratory passerines were fully settled into their summer breeding grounds. We encountered Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers. Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak song echoed through the forest. There were Olive-sided and Hammond's flycatchers, Western Wood-peewee and Black Phoebe. Many higher elevation residents were present as well: Mountain Quail, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Cassin's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and

Mountain Chickadee. The mountain fog rolled in to obscure our view just as we were wrapping up the morning, giving us a chance to practice birding-by-ear.

This is a link to a Youtube video I filmed of a Sora feeding at Lema Ranch:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIsBF-s-r0c>