



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society



This month we have a presentation from Cliff Feldheim, a waterfowl biologist and researcher, discussing Conservation in an Era of Human Dimensions and Novel Ecosystems. Natural resource managers are faced with trying to achieve the conservation of species and habitats in a novel ecosystem- an ecological system that is significantly different from historical ecosystems, where species combinations and interactions have not occurred naturally before. This is often characterized by new species introductions or large environmental modifications.

We are in a new era of conservation, an era of human dimensions and novel

ecosystems. For the first time in the history of our modern conservation efforts, we generally know what needs to be done to save species and their habitats, and even in the face of climate change have relatively unequivocal science. What we don't have is enough humans convinced that they can do something about it, or care enough to do something about it. How do we achieve meaningful conservation and engage the general public?

This talk will summarize this new area of conservation and present some examples from Cliff's thirty year career of working with biologists, scientists, public schools, city planners, elected officials, government agencies, and nonprofits, that can help conserve birds and other wildlife while engaging people from all walks of life in learning about and participating in nature and ultimately conservation.

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

Topic: **Conservation in an Era of Human Dimensions and Novel Ecosystems**

Time: Apr 9, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88203611580>

Meeting ID: 882 0361 1580

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,88203611580# US

+16699006833,,88203611580# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US

- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 882 0361 1580

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kbtQliWw3e>

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:
Dawn Smith, Marti Weidert, Naomi Yates, Makayla Kerr, and Janice Hunter -
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

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Each May the Shasta Birding Society elects its new Board for the coming year. The Board, through the Society's various committees, directs our projects in Education, Field Trips, and Conservation Advocacy. Below is the status of our Board slate for the coming year.

President - Catherine Camp (incumbent)

Vice-President - Open

Recording Secretary - Dan Greaney (incumbent)

Treasurer - Jaci White (incumbent)

Education Chair - Stephanie Hughes (incumbent)

Conservation Chair - Bruce Webb and Rebeca Ladron de Guevara
(incumbents)

Field Trip Chair - Dan Bye and Larry Jordan (incumbents in new roles)

Membership - Randy Bush (incumbent)

Corresponding Secretary - Jeannette Carroll (incumbent)

Webmaster/Publicity - Open; see below

Directors-at-Large - Open; see below

Requests of Members:

Do you have technology and/or editorial skills? We need those skills! Monthly event updates on our website and emailing our newsletter are vital services

for chapter members. If you have these skills and can contribute your expertise, or you want to learn Wordpress, please contact Dan Greaney, greaneys@yahoo.com or 530-276-9693. The outgoing webmaster, Larry Jordan, will be available to get you going with Wordpress and/or the Mailchimp email platform. Lynn Bancroft is also on the Publicity Team, managing Social Media for the chapter.

Directors-at-Large are unassigned to any particular committee. They typically fill in as needed and available in various chapter activities. For information or to volunteer, please contact Dan Greaney at greaneys@yahoo.com or 530-276-9693.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

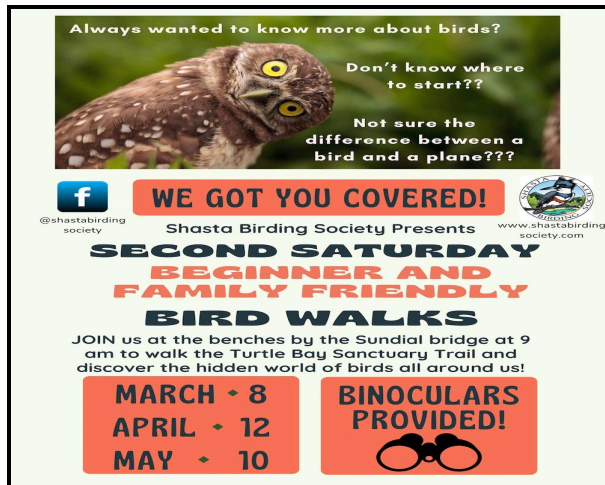
Note: *If you have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 10 days you must provide a certificate of vaccination or negative test results no longer than 72 hours prior to and as a requirement to participating in these events.*

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - Saturday, April 5th @ 7:30 am



Join Shasta Birding Society for a bird walk around Lema Ranch on Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00 am. We will be birding the oak woodlands and ponds at the Ranch on fairly level paved paths. We will bird Leah's loop beginning at the main parking lot. This two mile paved trail overlooks Secluded Pond and Hidden Pond. The trail offers excellent views of Lema Pond, the largest pond on the site, and Leah's Pond. We expect some late summer birds as well as migrants and a variety of waterfowl. Park and meet your leader, Larry Jordan at [Lema Ranch main parking lot](#) at 610 Armando Avenue off Hemingway Street. Questions? webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org

Turtle Bay Bird Walk - Saturday, April 12th @ 9:00 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 webmaster, Larry Jordan, 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, 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 Larry at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org

Earth Day at Caldwell Park - Saturday, April 19th from 11am to 4pm



Join us for the 2025 Redding Earth Day Festival at Caldwell Park on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Admission is free! We will have many children's activities and games in addition to live music and food vendors. There will also be many educational booths for adults as well! This is a free, family-friendly event so we hope you'll join us! There will be free and secure bike parking and, in the spirit of Earth Day, Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) will be offering rides on all routes free all day, making it easier for the community to participate in the Earth Day festivities at Caldwell

Park. Shasta Birding Society will have a booth with all kinds of information and displays. We will also have a special table for kids to build their own bird nesting box!

Arcata Marsh/Bottoms and North Spit Jetty at Humboldt Bay - Saturday, April 26th @ 5:30 am



Brant, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, Black Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, and Rock Sandpiper are all birds that are not typically seen in our immediate area. These and other birds are possibilities to witness when you visit Arcata Marsh and the North Spit Jetty at

Humboldt Bay. This event is one week after Godwit Days, but we are confident there will still be birds in the area to see on our own. Our chapter has not had a field trip to the Arcata/Humboldt Bay since COVID, and we are hoping to make this one of our best trips for the season. Our predawn departure will start at 5:30 am sharp. We will all meet prior to departing at the Civic Center Auditorium West Parking Lot for a group caravan from Redding directly to the Arcata Marsh. We will make one planned rest stop before our first destination, near Willow Creek. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary: 8:30 am is our estimated arrival time. There will be plenty of opportunity to stretch our legs by walking the trails at the sanctuary for approx. 2 ½ - 3 hours. We will then have a quick lunch break before we start our drive through the Arcata Bottoms on Old Samoa Road. This section of the road is narrow with limited room for parking. We will drive slowly as we search for birds at every vantage point, but for only one hour or less on this roadway. Then we head straight to our next destination. Humboldt Bay--North Spit Jetty: 1:00 pm is our estimated arrival time to the very unique location to view shore and surf birds. We will play here for an estimated 3 hours before we stop to find a place for a fast food meal and then head back home. We are estimating a return to Redding between 7:30 - 8:00 pm with smiles on our faces.

All or portions of this trip are subject to change. We are reaching out to local birders of the area to join us for any part of this trip or share any tips on where we should visit for any recent bird sightings of interest. It is essential that we hear from you if you are planning to caravan or if you are looking for a ride share with our group, contact Field Trip Leader (email link) [Daniel Bye](#), or text only at 530 228 9373, if you call, leave a message. Carpooling is highly recommended, and we can only assist in finding riders, and we will do our best, but no guarantees. Please let us know if you are planning to drive, and you have room for rider(s) as well. Those willing to ride instead of drive, please be prepared to move your well-packed items to another vehicle when you arrive at the west-side parking Civic Center Auditorium. Please pack a lunch, plenty of snacks, comfortable footwear, extra socks, a full water container, sunscreen, insect repellent, and your field optics.

OUR MARCH PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Our March hybrid In-person/Zoom meeting at our new location (see meeting venue above) was very successful with many folks attending in person to enjoy presentations from Julie Doerr and Dan Bye. Here are the winners of the photo contest.

First Place - Northern Spotted Owl from Tobias Felbeck



Second Place - Black-necked Stilts from Larry Jordan



Third Place Winners - Belted Kingfishers from David Bogener



Great Egret from Ernie Giesker (below)



Osprey from Jane Dysert



Thank you very much to all who participated. All great photos!

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

from Bruce Webb, Conservation Co-Chair

Inquiring minds want to know: While the flurry of executive orders, federal workforce reductions and immigration policy news fills the media-sphere, what does the current Presidential Administration mean for the future of bird conservation, in California and across the nation? From 2016 to 2020, several

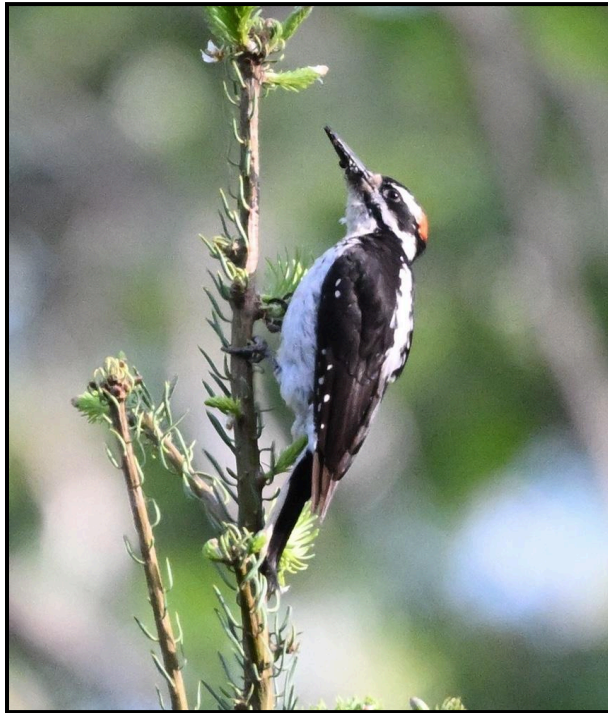
federal regulations, most notably the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, were revised with the intent to allow extractive and other industries to operate with fewer restrictions on their effects on birds and other wildlife. Regulations which previously discouraged or disallowed harmful effects were softened, as long as no actual intent to harm was shown. In some cases, these changes ran counter to long standing accepted application of certain laws, which originally defined "take" as mortality to wildlife which could otherwise be reasonably prevented. Redefining "take" as only in the event it can be proven that mortality was intentional, made these regulations essentially moot. In addition, it also placed state laws protecting rare or endangered birds at odds with the federal laws. For the MBTA, which is essentially a partnership with other countries, it also placed the US at odds with its treaty partners.

Predictably, the MBTA change was challenged in court. After several years of litigation, federal courts essentially determined that the "take" regulations had to be revised back to the "whether intentional or incidental" definition. Consequently, late in 2021, the regulations reverted back to the pre-2016 provisions. However, the current administration has adopted several executive orders which reveal the pendulum likely will swing back again, with a vengeance. Executive orders addressing the definition of "take", and once again making "incidental take" allowable under the MBTA, have been passed. In addition, a panel consisting of the leaders of Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior, the Council of Economic Advisors and other key departments, called the Endangered Species Committee, will be empowered to green light a project which will take endangered wildlife if the project's benefits outweigh the harm to the species. This could result in harm to or extinctions of birds listed under the Endangered Species Act at the expense of a project, without guidelines as to the extent of economic benefit required.

If you are worried, as am I, for the future of bird conservation and the protections afforded by our bedrock endangered species and migratory bird laws, please write your U.S. representatives and senators and tell them bird conservation is more important than corporate profits and oil extraction. You might also mention that oil and other extractive industry profits are doing just fine, and don't need to be even higher."

TRIP REPORTS

Trinity County Bird Outing / Trinity River Hatchery and More on March 1st



This was a lucky day for three go-lucky birders that travelled to Trinity County for a Big Day Count. The mission was to visit 4 hotspot and record all we could see. Our first visit location was a big day hit with 40 species observed at Lewiston-Lowden Ranch Historic Site. Sightings on river and ponds provided views of Wood Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and Pied-billed Grebe. Along the riparian trails we saw and heard Steller's and Scrub Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

White-breasted Nuthatch, Lesser and American Goldfinch, Fox and Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and both Mountain and California Quail. In the sky we watched Tree Swallows, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Western Bluebird working for their morning meal. Our morning continued with a visit to Lewiston Fish Hatchery, where we observed 23 species. Below the dam and lining the Trinity River we saw plenty of Common Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn and Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, American Crow, and Brewer's Blackbird. We made a visit to a picnic spot downstream from the hatchery for location and a brief walk along the river. It all started out typical with birds we seen through the morning when suddenly, a Peregrine showed up high above us skirting the mountain top to our west. It was a beautiful sight to behold. Our day finished out at two more hotspots in Weaverville. Where we observed 9 species at Weaverville WTP, and 10 species at Weaverville Basin Wetlands. The afternoon was much quieter and the winds were starting to increase with

the incoming storm. However, we did add a couple of observations for our effort of a Virginia Rail and Hairy Woodpecker. Our total for our Big Day in Trinity County was 54 Species. Keep on birding!

Turtle Bay Bird Walk on March 8th



The reprise of the Second Saturday Bird Walk was a big success with ten folks of all ages enjoying the sun and the birds and the camaraderie of their fellow birders. While Tree Swallows chased each other, chirping all along, a large number of White-breasted Nuthatches honked at each other as they chased around the tree trunks.

Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, American Coots, Common Goldeneyes and Mergansers frolicked on the river while a Red-tailed Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk graced the sky. The Bald Eagles were both spotted at and near the nest and Yellow-rumped Warblers were spotted everywhere. A good time was had by all!

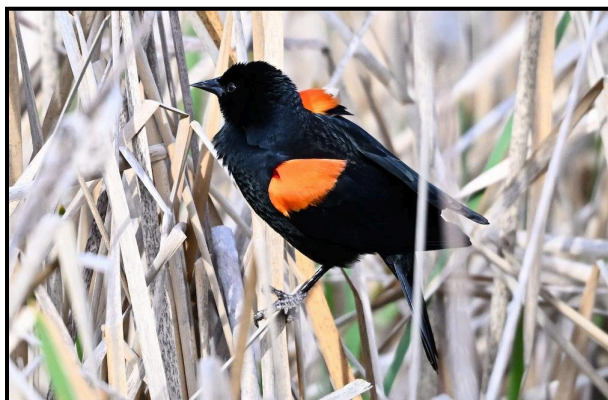
Paynes Creek Wetlands on March 15th



On this Saturday morning, the rain had stopped many hours before we arrived, and the clouds were just opening up to share the sun's light with four adventurous birders. It was cold and a light wind was noticeable as we approached Bass Pond to begin our journey. In the surrounding areas of the pond was a Great Blue

Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Acorn Woodpecker. On the pond we quickly saw Mallard, Ring-necked and Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, and Common Gallinule. Along the trail to the north we found Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and California Scrub Jay. On the south side of the main road, we hiked between the many wetland's ponds, each filled with water and birds. Wind speed started to increase. On the trail we observed Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows, White-crowned, Savannah, and Song Sparrows, and Western Bluebird. From our view above the ponds, we could see Greater White-fronted and Canada Goose, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Along the edge of the ponds, we noticed Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Wilson Snipe, Marsh Wren, and Sora. Oh yah, I nearly forgot about all the American Wigeon. Thanks for that Kacie and Sabrina. Our total effort for the morning brought in 57 species and beside a little wind, this was one great day of birding with friends.

Lema Ranch on March 22nd

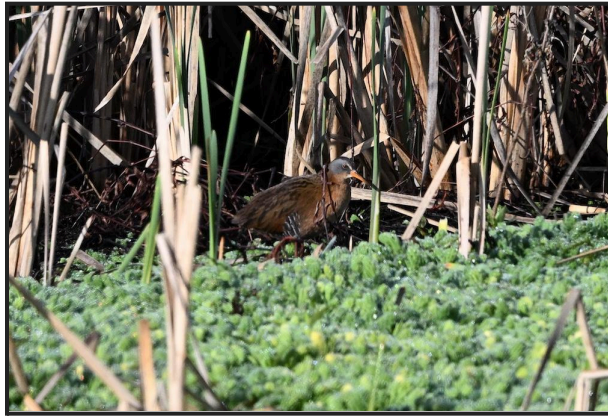


Ten eager birders met at Lema Ranch under overcast skies to greet forty-nine avian species, beginning with a raucous group of Northern Mockingbirds in the parking area. We spent nearly four hours walking the tree lined paths around all five ponds. As we approached Mule Pond I was surprised at the small number of

Greater White-fronted Geese on the ground near the pond. Then, out of nowhere, literally over a thousand geese flew in creating quite a ruckus! There were still quite a few ducks to see including American Wigeon, Mallard,

Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds vied for the top count with the swallows tallying the winning forty-eight and to everyone's joy we watched as Bushtits were building their nest!

Coleman Fish Hatchery - Battle Creek CDFW Area on March 29th



Shout outs to the beautiful weather and Mandy who joined her first SBS bird outing. She is new to birding and she seemed very willing to learn more of what birding is all about. Nine of us met at the Coleman Hatchery eager to get started. Probably because the temperature was slightly above freezing and the act of moving around would be a solid idea to warm up a

little to thaw. Nonetheless, we were seeing a lot of activity at the parking lot with Black Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, Brewer's Blackbird, House Sparrow, and Eurasian Collared-Dove flying around us as we headed out for our adventure. As we trekked through the Hatchery campus we saw Turkey Vulture, Northern Flicker, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow, Lesser Goldfinch, American Robin, and House Finch. To the other end of the campus, we entered the first section of ponds and catching our eye was a very rare sighting of Virginia Rail which everyone was amazed to see. Continuing through pond area we saw Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, America Coot, Wilson Snipe (high count of 14), Pied-billed Grebe, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Yellowthroat. As we journeyed along the Creekside we found California Quail, Bald Eagle (nesting pair), California Scrub Jay, Oak Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and there were clutches of White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. As we entered our next section to walk the Oaktree Trail along Battle Creek, we were again greeted by Black Phoebe and Belted Kingfisher. What a treat! We also discovered Downy Woodpecker, Northern House and Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, Spotted Towhee, and

Orange-crowned Warbler. Our total count for our effort of 4 hours and 2 ¼ miles was 54 species and 444 individuals.



Peregrine Falcon at Delevan National Wildlife Refuge

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