



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society

TURTLE BAY LIVE BIRD SHOW



Sharon Clay has been the Curator of Animal Programs at Turtle Bay for over fifteen years. During that time she has assembled an incredible showcase of animals that are unable to be released back into the wild. These include several species of birds ranging from the Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Barn Owl to the Yellow-billed Magpie and her long-time friend Kinta, the Laughing Kookaburra. Sharon has graciously given us the opportunity to visit her at "The Mill Building" in Turtle Bay to meet these amazing birds, learn all about them, and experience them close up, some as they fly across the room! This will be an in-person presentation that you won't want to miss. Watching it later on YouTube just won't be the same. This event is free. A donation box will be available. Please consider donating to this special event!

Wednesday, May 21st - Park at [the monolith adjacent to the Sheraton Hotel](#) at Turtle Bay **no later than 6:45 pm** to access the gate to enter the park for this 7pm meeting. We will direct you to the Mill Building.

Special Note: Please attend this meeting to vote on our slate of officers for the coming year!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

To show how much we appreciate our donor, we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! These are our recent generous donors:

Susan Stienstra, Dr. Eleanor Canola-Davis, Mary Weidert, Duane Edwards
and Shannon Hunter, Marla Nolan - 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

MAY 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 Second Saturday Bird Walk - Saturday, May 10th @ 9:00 am

Always wanted to know more about birds?

Don't know where to start??

Not sure the difference between a bird and a plane???

 **WE GOT YOU COVERED!** 

@shastabirding society Shasta Birding Society Presents www.shastabirding society.com

**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!**



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, but 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 Julie Doerr at millvillemurphs@gmail.com

Raptors of Butte Valley - Sunday, May 11th @ 7:00 am to 3:00 pm



All day event with CalPoly Humboldt Graduate Student: Elizabeth (Lizzi) D. Meisman. This is a unique opportunity to observe actual field research in action. Touring Butte Valley, where numerous species of raptors nest. Using scope and binoculars to watch adults forage, and possibly spot juveniles and fledged birds that are learning skills. CalPoly Humboldt graduate student, Elizabeth Meisman, will share knowledge she is gaining with her project and studies of the Swainson's

Hawk in this unique agricultural setting. Meet at the USFS Gooseneck Ranger station along Highway 97 at 9am. Please bring water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, hat, a scope if you have one, and hopefully binoculars. The trip will be from 9 am and could go until 3 pm. The end time may be sooner depending upon weather conditions and participants' needs. Likely species include Swainson's Hawks, Golden and Bald Eagles, Sandhill Cranes, and many more! Meeting location: <https://shorturl.at/nKDVH> Elizabeth Meisman is our trip leader for this exciting trip. Directions: From Redding, take I-5 north 68 miles to exit 747 (hwy 97) toward Central Weed/Klamath Falls. Stay on hwy 97 for 36 miles to Gooseneck Ranger Station on your left. Meet Co-Field Trip Leaders Larry Jordan at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org and Daniel Bye at danbye56@gmail.com at [Kutras Park parking lot at 2400 Park Marina Drive](#) at 7am sharp to carpool.

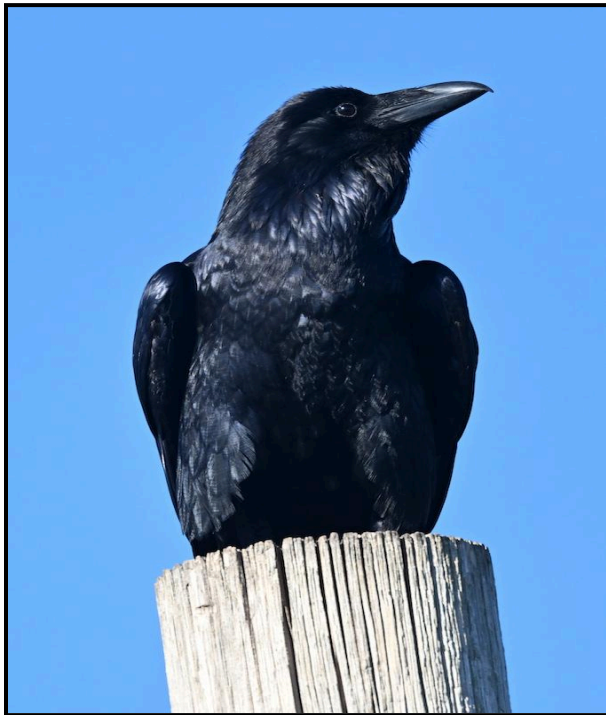
Shasta Birding Society's Big Day at the Falls: Swifts & Swallows Tour - Saturday, May 17th @ 8:00 am to 3:00 pm



A full-day, fee-free event visiting areas of eastern Shasta County. This is an SBS Big Day event that will include 3-4 primary stops at Burney Falls, Baum Lake, and Fall River Mills. No bird will be left uncounted but to make it even

more fun, our target species will be Swift and Swallow. The seasonal stage is set for the spring migration to possibly see the Black, Vaux's, and White-throated Swift, the Bank, Tree, Cliff, Barn, Violet-green, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and the Purple Martin. We will meet, 8am at [Safeway Parking Lot in Burney](#) long enough to gather everyone together, then head out to Burney Falls. Upon arrival, we will tour the Falls Loop Trail (1.1 miles) tallying birds and keeping a watchful eye for the returning Black Swift. We should see plenty of swallow species at all locations of course. Our next stop will be Baum Lake, continuing our journey where we will seek to find possible Purple Martin and Vaux's Swift. The two trails along Crystal and Baum Lake (1.2 miles) are each fairly short, and the area has great scenery. We will then head east to Fall River Mills, and when we arrive, we will turn north heading to Fall River Lake. Here we can eat lunch. We will then tally more bird species as we drive along the west side of the lake back towards our final destination. The 'Fall River Mills—Bank Swallow nest site' Hotspot, which should guaranty us the opportunity to see our species, Bank Swallow. We are looking forward to seeing you all. Please make sure to bring a lunch, water, and snacks. Every stop we make has a large mosquito population, so please bring some type of repellant for protection. Bring sunscreen and wear a hat for your protection as well. We will provide the smiles! Contact Dan Bye danbye56@gmail.com

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THE CONSERVATION CORNER

from Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara, Conservation Co-Chair

As the Riverfront Specific Plan moves forward, here's what we know and how you can continue to be engaged. Although no new drafts of the Riverfront Specific Plan have recently been released, The City will be hosting an informal Community Open House on **May 5, 2025, between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM** at the **Community Room at Redding City Hall (777 Cypress Avenue)**. Due to the informal nature of the open house, community members are encouraged to arrive at any time that works best for them during the time frame. There will be a series of posters around the room with information on the emerging concepts for the riverfront and the City's project team will be available to discuss the concepts and answer any questions. There will not be a formal presentation.

On **May 20, 2025**, The City Council is scheduled to review, discuss and provide direction regarding development of the Riverfront Specific Plan during their regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting is scheduled to start at **6:00 PM** and will be held in **Council Chambers (777 Cypress Avenue)**. We expect this meeting to be an update as to where things stand before the next steps.

On April 15th, Redding City Council voted to replace Aaron Hatch and Brandi Greene on the Planning Commission by Blake Nance and Erin Ryan. This questionable decision is critical at this point since it is expected that the Planning Commission will review and vote on the Riverfront Specific Plan later this year, and the two new appointees have no experience as city planning commissioners, nor have they ever attended a Planning Commission meeting. Their new role begins in May, and it is up to the citizens to let them know how important open spaces, wildlife and their habitat are to the residents of Redding by way of emails, letters, and comments at the Planning Commission meetings held.

TRIP REPORTS

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 5th



On a cool morning with no wind, four lucky birders enjoyed a beautiful morning at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. We tallied fifty-eight species during a leisurely walk among the ponds and along the Sacramento River. Greater White-fronted Geese unsurprisingly had the largest flock but Northern Shovelers made a good showing along with Gadwall and a dozen Cinnamon Teal! A pair of Bald Eagles showed their two young in the nest and a pair of Osprey appeared to be nesting as well. We had our first Western Kingbird of the season and a Bullock's Oriole! Lots of Tree Swallows, and European Starlings carrying nesting material. Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant. We also tallied four Orange-crowned Warblers and nineteen Yellow-rumped Warblers including three Myrtles!

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay on April 12th



Seven birders enjoyed a leisurely walk around the Turtle Bay Sanctuary on a beautiful sunny day. We tallied forty-one species starting at the Sundial Bridge where we found several Canada Geese goslings feeding on the grass. The Cliff Swallows were in full form at the bridge estimated at 300 but likely undercounted, followed by hundreds of Tree Swallows. Ducks were represented only by Mallard, Common Merganser and Bufflehead and Double-crested Cormorants were in full bloom with crests in full view! We found one Cooper's Hawk and two Red-shouldered Hawks and of course the Bald Eagle pair. Near the end of the trip we found two Western Kingbirds! The best bird of the day was easily confirmed as a male Bullock's Oriole!

Earth Day Celebration on April 19th



Larry Jordan and Jaci White manned our table at the Earth Day Festival on April 19th. Jaci set-up our extensive nest display with corresponding pictures--thanks to Jeanette Carroll. Jaci took great care of the children, quizzing them about birds and coloring our bird drawings. There was a good turn-out with lots of booths, many setup especially for the kids. We gathered thirteen new names for our newsletter mailing list and enjoyed camaraderie with our neighbors the Shasta Land Trust, and Shasta Wildlife Rescue. A great time was had by all. Join us next year!

Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, Arcata Bottoms, Trinidad Harbor and More on April 24th



Five eager birders began our day with a cool morning, mostly sunny, with a light breeze. We were blessed with two local birders, Chet Ogan and Dan Greaney, who guided us through several Arcata and surrounding birding hot spots. We were able to see and hear 77 species for the day! We started the trip at Arcata Marsh with over 60 species, followed by the Arcata Bottoms - V Street Loop where

we picked up a Barn Owl, Peregrine Falcon, American Wigeon, and Savannah Sparrow. A tip of a Solitary Sandpiper sent us to the Arcata Ridge Trail where we did find our quarry as well as a singing Pacific Wren! Rather

than brave the North Spit Jetty at Humboldt Bay, with now high winds and high tide, we moved to Trinidad Harbor where I picked up two lifers, the Harlequin Duck and the Pigeon Guillemot! We ended the day with a short walk around Potawot Health Village where we picked up a Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Orange-crowned Warbler. Thanks to all for a special birding day!



Bank Swallows at Fall River Mills Ecological Preserve

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