



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society



Rufous Hummingbird Female at Red Yucca

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:

Robert Shull and Larry Jordan - 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

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Anderson River Park Bird Walk – September 6th, 7:30am to 12pm.



We plan to meet: [Parking area of the amphitheater, southeast of Kiddyland to the far right near the picnic area](#). Walking distance estimated at 1.5-2 miles (2.5-3.3 km)

Welcome back to Shasta Birding Society's 2025-26 Season for our active season calendar of events. Grab your favorite optics and come join us for this no fee event.

This first Saturday in September where we are kicking off the season with a bird walk of Anderson River Park. This 440-acre recreational facilities managed by the City of Anderson has a vast network of trails and diverse riparian habitat. On trail conditions you should expect fairly level areas for walking with variations of paved, dirt, and gravel surfaces. At times we might be sharing the trail with runners, bicyclists, pet walkers, and horseback riders. Many of these trails will offer enjoyable scenic views of the Sacramento River, various ponds, open fields, and heavily wooded areas of natural flora and mixes of some invasive plant species as well. Recommend that you bring comfortable footwear, plenty of water, snacks, and insect repellent.

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

Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary Walk - Saturday, September 13th @ 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.org

**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!

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. 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, woodpeckers, raptors, sparrows, and more. 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 Jordan at thelarryjordan@gmail.com

Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve - Saturday, September 20th @ 8:00 am

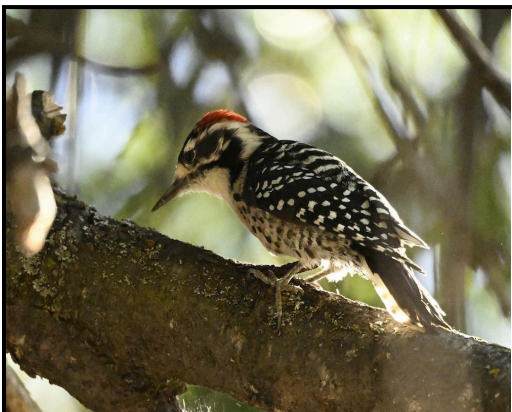


We will meet at the [parking area](#) at Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve at 8am for a leisurely mile and a half walk along the Small Loop Trail and Creek Trail. Sturdy shoes are recommended. This photo is of a Wrentit. They are a long-lived, year-round resident in shrublands like the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve. This species has been described as the most sedentary species in North America so our chances are

pretty good of finding this gem on our walk. Turkey Vultures, Common Ravens, Acorn Woodpeckers, California Scrub-Jays and Oak Titmice are expected and hopefully we will find California Quail as well. We are also keeping our fingers crossed for an American Dipper on Clear Creek!

Contact Larry Jordan at thelarryjordan@gmail.com for more information.

Red Bluff Recreation Area, MNF - Saturday, September 27th @ 7:30 am to 11:30



Where to meet: [1000 Sale Lane, Red Bluff, CA](#), at the upper-level parking lot. South end of Sale Lane next to the Sacramento River Discovery Center. Walking distance estimated at 2-2.5 miles (3-4 km), and most of the trails are level and paved. Direct access to the river is a little uneven terrain.

Please join us on a journey with many trails at this very diverse public land with no fees. Sacramento River bisects 488 acres, at this Recreation Area of riparian forest, flowering grasslands, wetlands, and oak woodlands providing very diverse natural viewing experiences. This location is Tehama Region's number one eBird's hotspot. Ideal spot for migratory species in the fall and spring seasons. Also, a great home for many varieties of Sparrows, Warblers, Wrens, Woodpeckers, Waterfowl, and Wading Birds. Both the Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, California and Spotted Towhee, House and Bewick's Wren, Yellow-billed Magpies and Phainopeplas are often found here year-round.

Recommend that you bring comfortable rugged footwear, plenty of water, snacks, and insect repellent. Rain will cancel this event, and feel free to email me to confirm upon any possible cancellations.

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

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

from Bruce Webb, Conservation Chair

In your April newsletter, I described two federal actions that will harm birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The first was the application of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to "incidental take", unintended acts which harm or kill birds protected by the treaty. Incidental take importantly includes harm resulting from habitat modification or removal. As I related, the administration announced they would rescind the Biden Administration's action that reinstated the long-standing application of MBTA to habitat removal or degradation and incidental take. The second issue I discussed in April was the Admin's intent to reconvene the "Endangered Species Committee", consisting of heads of various land, water and wildlife federal agencies to decide if a project is more important than the endangered species it will kill. The Committee was created by Congress in 1978 but its actions since then have been few and were challenged in court successfully. The Committee has not met to discuss any specific project. It is likely that new regulations will be announced to enable the Committee to green-light specific projects.

In this and subsequent issues, I will continue an overview of the administration's regulatory changes and their effects on avian populations and wildlife habitats.

Topics and their implications for birds and wildlife in addition to the two I've discussed include:

- Rollback of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)
- HR1 ("One Big Bill")
- Rollback of EPA "Endangerment Ruling" for greenhouse gas emissions
- Open National Forests to Logging; Cancel the 2001 Roadless Rule
- Sell Public Lands for Development
- Changes to Clean Water Act "Waters of the US" Definition

The changes to NEPA so far are the result of the administration's rescission of the NEPA implementation guidelines, a set of regulations prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality. All federal agencies have been instructed to rely on the existing language of NEPA, without specific guidance on timelines, consultations with other agencies, and many other implementing details. Instead, federal agencies are "encouraged" to follow the suggestions of the executive order that rescinded the regulations. This unfortunately requires that cumulative impact analysis will be ended, and timeliness of preparation will be stressed at the expense of obtaining the best available science. These changes are likely to result in adverse effects on wildlife and habitat. A cumulative analysis requires looking at the effects of likely future projects. If such a project will kill a protected bird, it may be at population level risk only when the aggregate of past, proposed and likely future such projects are included. The change provides a loophole for projects that may result in severe population level impacts.

Changes to NEPA have also been included in HR1 (One Big Bill). These modifications reduce the timelines for NEPA completion, which may affect the thoroughness of wildlife impact assessments and limit the period available for filing legal challenges. I'll discuss these further when we look at HR1 next time!

Please review the topics I listed, suggest others, ask any questions you may have and I'll try my best to find an answer. As to "what can I do...?" please consider letters and emails and phone calls to your elected representatives, and talk to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances! Know also that opinion polls show overwhelming support for regulations that protect our birds. The oil producers have profited handsomely under ALL administrations; they don't need even bigger profits.

On August 15 we sent a letter to Governor Newsom and legislators on Senate Bill 131, which made changes to the California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA) that pose threats to birds and wildlife resulting from excluding certain projects from CEQA. Many other California conservation organizations filed similar comments. Please view the letter on our website at:

<https://shastabirdingsociety.org/about-us/letter-to-governor-newsom-regarding-the-california-environmental-quality-act/>



ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER CHICKS IN THE NEST

A heartfelt thanks to our 2025 nestwatch monitors, Grace Sudbery, Jess Loucks, and Erika Iacona. This project can only be conducted each year with dedicated monitors that spend many hours checking on each and every one of our 70 nest sites from April through July. If you think this may be something you would like to do next season, please contact Larry Jordan at thelarryjordan@gmail.com. This season was a difficult year as we lost several nestlings due to the excessive summer heat. That being said, here are the stats: 243 eggs laid, 199 nestlings hatched, and 129 birds fledged. That's 129 Oak Titmouse, Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and Ash-throated Flycatchers gracing the skies for all of us to enjoy!

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL MONITORING BEGINS NEXT MONTH!



As we enter September, we are reminded that fall migration is just around the corner and with that brings... owls! In 2022, local ecologist Erika Iacona, in cooperation with Shasta Birding Society, led Shasta County's first northern saw-whet owl (NSWO) migration monitoring program located in Lassen National Park. Fall 2025 will mark the fourth consecutive year of NSWO migration monitoring in Shasta County.

Typical to coniferous and mixed forest habitats, the highly nocturnal NSWO is known as one of the smallest North American forest owls. Their small size,

weighing between 65 and 150 grams, does not hinder their ability to migrate long distances throughout North America every year. Over the last 30+ years, NSWO migratory ecology has been studied intensively due to the efforts of Project OwlNet cooperators. Project OwlNet, established in 1994, facilitates, communication, cooperation, and innovation among NSWO researchers and provides standardized methodologies for forest owl research. Currently, there are approximately 200 active research stations throughout North America, 6 of which occur on the west coast of the United States, 5 of those occurring in California. Despite the growing traction of NSWO research efforts, little information is known about their migratory



patterns and overwintering preferences, particularly in the western United States.

Over the last three years Erika has banded 27 NSWOW at our Shasta County monitoring station, with high hopes that another monitoring station will retrieve these owls, aimed with the intent to aid in a better understanding of NSWOW movements and migratory pathways throughout California, the west coast and possibly, other parts of the continent. We are looking forward to continuing with NSWOW monitoring in Shasta County next month!



Bank Swallows at Fall River Mills Ecological Preserve

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