



CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Dan Bye's Big Week In Arizona



This two-part presentation will start with an introduction of 'How to Create an eBird Trip Report' and then Daniel will share his 'Big Week in Arizona' through the final product of the trip report. Showing photos and new destinations traveled through the state of Arizona from August 10th-17th of this year in the pursuit of finding new lifers. Sharing details of several hotspots in the southeast and northern part of the state.

Composed Narrative of the Field Trip Report:

I had planned for this trip months in advance with the intent of finding new lifers to add to my life list. My goal was to find 45 new life birds to break through to the 500th

milestone on my life list. That did not happen on this trip but I completed the trip rewarded that I did my best. Our family, my wife and our two dogs, traveled a great distance together and made it to all of our destinations and learned a great deal more about the State of Arizona.

This Field Trip Report is the best way that I can share this journey for anyone interested in seeing the various bird species I saw at new locations I searched out.

The Arizona Big Week began on Sunday, August 10, the first day we entered the state. Since we were traveling in our RV, we setup our basecamp at various campgrounds we would camp for one or more nights.

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

Topic: **Dan Bye's Big Week in Arizona**

Time: Nov 12, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83456508231>

Meeting ID: 834 5650 8231

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83456508231# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,83456508231# US

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/83456508231>
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/83456508231>

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:

Erika Iacona, David Ledger, Jaci White, and Catherine Camp - 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

NOVEMBER 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.

Kum Bay Xerel - Open Space, November 1st @ 8am



You are invited to join us at Kum Bay Xerel, in the Wintu language means “Shady Oak Village”. This open space with a wide paved trail provides great access to the Sacramento River south of Redding Ca. To get there take the Knighton Road Exit (#673) from I-5, turn west on Knighton Road and make an immediate left (south) on the frontage road of Riverland Drive. Continue for about ½ mile and you will see a gate, parking lot, and restroom to the right side of the road. We all will meet at the trailhead at the south end of the parking

lot. On the trail, the first ¾ of a mile is paved with excellent ADA access and benches to rest. At the end of the pavement, there is an additional mile of dirt trails on adjacent BLM land. Expect wintering waterfowl on the water and many songbird species along the lush wooded riparian corridor, as well as raptors, including eagles, soaring overhead.

Here is a drop-pin you can use for GPS directions to this event; [Kum_Bay_Xerel](#)

We are looking forward to seeing you there, weather permitting. Check our calendar page on our Shasta Birding Society website for updates. Link to webpage;

<https://shastabirdingsociety.org/calendar/>

Turtle Bay - Saturday, November 8th @ 9am to 10am

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!

**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!

@shastabirding society

Shasta Birding Society Presents

www.shastabirding society.org

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 an hour. Binoculars are provided. Join Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara 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.

Clover Creek Preserve - Saturday, November 15th @ 7:30am to 8:30am



What birds of prey will surprise us at Clover Creek Preserve? Merlin or American Kestrel? Red-tailed or Red-shouldered Hawk? Northern Harrier or White-tailed Kite? Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawk? Join us at the preserve on Saturday, November 15, at 7:30 am to find out how many other songbirds, waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds we can find. Clover Creek Preserve is a 128-acre open space in east Redding that features grasslands, blue oaks,

and a 6.7 acre lake. We will spend about an hour on a paved trail. Meet leader Larry Jordan at the preserve, [3705 Shasta View Drive, at the main parking lot](#).

Coleman Fish Hatchery/Battle Creek Wildlife Area Walk, November 22nd @ 8:00am to 12:00pm



Location of where we will meet: Parking area at 24411 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd, Anderson, CA 96007 – Drop Pin [Coleman Fish Hatchery](#) Walking distance total estimated at 2-3 miles (3.5-5 km) We will walk through sections of the fish hatchery and exit at the west gate to enter Battle Creek Salmon Trail. This 1.4-mile path will provide great access around ponds and views along Battle Creek with exceptional

sections of riparian habitat. We will quickly enter Battle Creek Wildlife Area where we will join the Oaktree Trail for an additional 1-mile walk through large tracts of oaks, willows, and many other native and non-native plants and trees. Under ideal conditions, we should see many waterbirds, raptors, and passerines within this 582-acre area of exploration. One vehicle will be staged at parking area of Battle Creek Wildlife Area, and drivers will be shuttled back to Coleman Fish Hatchery parking lot and pick up others at the end of our walk. We will reschedule if rained out. Trip Leader: Dan Bye, contact me by email at danbye56@gmail.com for more information.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area - Saturday, November 29th @ 6:30am



Gray Lodge's diversity and location along the Pacific Flyway make it a haven for wildlife. Surrounded by miles of rich agricultural lands, the approximately 9,100-acre area is managed for the wildlife that call Gray Lodge home for all or part of the year. Reflective ponds, grassy fields and wooded riparian areas provide food, water and shelter for more than 300 species of resident and migrant birds and mammals. Meet at the [Kutras Park parking lot](#) at 6:30 am sharp to carpool or at parking area 14 at the refuge at 8:30

am. Bring a lunch and water as this is an all day event. It is not unusual to see over 50 species of birds at this location and is the only place I know to commonly find all three "Teals". We will traverse the walking trail around the ponds, to the viewing platform and back to the parking lot. Following lunch we will drive the auto tour loop. Questions? Contact Larry Jordan at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org

[Gray Lodge Public Access Map](#)

A [CDFW Lands Pass](#) must be in possession by each visitor who is 16 years of age or older, however, visitors who are in possession of a valid California hunting or fishing license in their name are exempt from this requirement. Lands passes may be [purchased on-line](#), by phone at (800) 565-1458, or in-person at locations [wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold](#). They are also available in the parking area at Gray Lodge for \$4.50. Here is a link to the bird list:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=88006&inline>

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

from Bruce Webb

Beginning with the April, 2025 Newsletter, I began reviewing the changes to federal environmental regulations enacted or proposed by the current Administration which may affect birds. These changes will reprioritize fossil fuel and energy development and other extractive industries at the expense of bird conservation. I discussed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the intention to green-light actions of the "Endangered Species Committee" and the results of passage of H.R. 1, the "One Big Bill" signed by the President in July, which cancels previously approved funding for conservation grant programs that benefit birds, habitat and wildlife. This month, I will review the rollback of the Environmental Protection Agency's "Endangerment Finding" for greenhouse gas emissions and the Administration's plans to open our national forests to logging by canceling the 2001 National Forest Roadless Rule.

Most people agree that increases in greenhouse gas emissions cause climate change. And most people agree that the recent increase in frequency and intensity of wildfires results from our warming climate. It is also known that birds and wildlife are put at risk by wildfire smoke and resulting habitat destruction due to climate change. As we worry about the effects of fossil fuel emissions on climate change, we also worry about its effects on wildlife, due directly to wildfire smoke but also due to habitat destruction. Consequently, wildlife managers are concerned about this Administration's proposal to rescind the EPA's "Endangerment Finding". This finding was first established in 2009 after a US Supreme Court ruling in 2007 that forced the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act due to their risk to public health. Curbing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is important for protecting public health; we shouldn't forget it's also important for birds and wildlife and for protection of their habitat. (The period for public comment on rescinding EPA's Endangerment Finding expired September 22.) EPA is expected to finalize rescinding the Endangerment Finding by the end of the year; major legal challenges will surely follow. Please read the following for a more complete analysis and what you can do to help.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-preserving-endangerment-finding-matters-birds-people-and-local-economies>

The "Roadless Rule" is a U.S. Forest Service policy that restricts road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on almost 60 million acres of roadless areas within the 193 million acres of National Forest lands (about 30% of our National Forests). Many of those acres are within old growth and second growth timber in California, Oregon and Washington, and are habitat for the California and northern spotted owl, bald eagle, marbled murrelet, sooty grouse and other special status birds. After many years of litigation, the "Rule" has become settled policy and most domestic timber production takes place and is geared toward private industrial timber lands, where roads are commonly already in place. The Forest Service claims rescinding the "Rule" will help protect the forest from wildfire by increasing access, however, studies suggest that roads and human access typically increase wildfire risk. Fires in roadless tracts are many times less common than for areas with road access and higher visitation rates; logging old-growth forests to save the spotted owl from fire risk is a flawed argument. The proposed "Rule" recission was open to written comments until September 19, although comments can be filed at any time. The Forest Service plans to file a draft environmental impact statement around March 2026, which will be open to more comments. Please see:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/protecting-roadless-rule-safeguards-more-just-forests>

Next time we'll discuss federal plans to:

- Sell Public Lands for Development
- Changes to the Clean Water Act's "Waters of the US" Definition

Please let me know: Are these articles helpful to you? Do you have suggestions for other similar topics, or more in depth analysis? Although the news is NOT uplifting, I continue to believe we need to know what's happening to birds and wildlife while these policy and regulatory changes are overshadowed by other news events such as ballrooms and tariffs.

TRIP REPORTS

Manzanita Lake on October 4th



On this day we had the makings to deliver, Thrills and Chills, with the hint of high-level bird activity under slightly above freezing temperatures. However, seven Birders were still determined to share in this day's adventure. As we gathered in the parking lot, Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Flicker, and Yellow-rump Warbler were over head and in the treetops. Before we could reach the lake, we saw American Dipper, the White-headed and Hairy Woodpecker, more Yellow-rump Warbler (Audubon),

Band-tailed Pigeon, Steller's Jay, and Turkey Vulture.

The first section of trail on the lake we observed Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, more American Dipper, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Orange-crowned Warbler. As we reached the midsection of the lake trail, we discovered raptor activity of Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed Hawk, and Merlin. The Cooper's behavior was especially interesting as it was first observed in flight low over the lake, landing on the ground near the trail, where we had been moments before. Jumping up into the very low branches of a large pine tree, hopping from branch to branch and remaining low to the base of the tree, jumping down, then walking on the ground like there was still prey to chase. Once this species tucked back behind another tree, we lost track of its movement, so we continued on. On the final section of the lake trail, waterbirds started to appear like the Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Pied-billed Grebe, and our fan favorite of the day the Eared Grebe. As we approached the stream for our final ascent to the visitor center bridge, we saw Belted Kingfisher, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Brown Creeper, Mountain Chickadee, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. For our adventure, we tallied 34 total species and everyone had fun.

If you are an eBirder and you would like to see details of our Bird Outing, click on this link. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S277300192> If you are interested in joining one of our Bird Walks or Outings, please check our calendar of events on our website. <https://shastabirdingsociety.org/calendar/>

Turtle Bay on October 11th



We had another beautiful morning with perfect autumn weather at Turtle Bay for the October Second Saturday Bird walk. Our group of five birders was joined intermittently by other curious fellow nature enthusiasts of the community. We had a casual walk across the Sundial Bridge to see waterfowl like Geese, Ducks, and Mergansers, as well as dozens of Double-Crested Cormorants that perch on the suspended pipe, just upriver from the bridge. Some migrating Warblers were seen

along the banks, including Orange-Crowned Warblers, Northern Yellow Warblers, as well as Yellow-Rumped Warblers, that are common in the area during winter and offer a welcome touch of color to the cold season. North of the bridge, along the mouth of Sulphur Creek we encountered Cedar Waxwings, California and Spotted Towhees, Woodpeckers. Hundreds of Tree and Violet-Green Swallows were aloft and our constant companions. Visit eBird for a complete checklist of all bird species we encountered: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S278785155>

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on October 18th



It was a brisk morning when four excellent birders headed down the hill to the Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for a two mile walk around the ponds. There didn't seem to be many birds in the air but there were lots of birds in the trees and in the shallow ponds. Of course the ever present European Starlings were plentiful, but not as plentiful as the American Goldfinches, which took the top spot in numbers estimated at 100. Killdeer and a flock of Least Sandpipers were found in the shallows and a couple dozen American

Pipits foraged in the short scrub and grasses. Surprisingly we only saw a half dozen Turkey Vultures but we also enjoyed a female Northern Harrier as she cruised the entire area, one Cooper's Hawk, one Bald Eagle, a Red-tailed Hawk, and an American Kestrel. Yellow-rumped Warblers were plentiful and we found a couple of Orange-crowned and a Yellow Warbler! Near the end of the walk, a flock of sixteen Wood Ducks flew up from the creek on the east side of the plant to top off the day.



Peregrine Falcon at Delevan National Wildlife Refuge

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