CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society

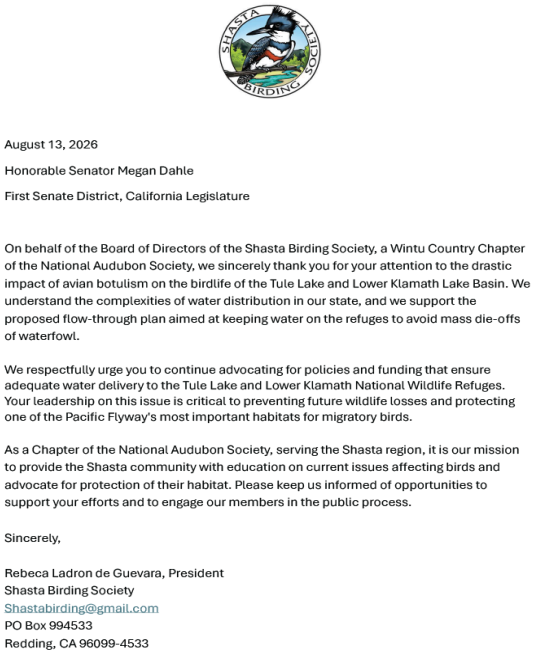
A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Collective Action in the Klamath Basin

Rebeca Ladron de Guevara, Chapter President

There are many ways to help birds, and one of them is by contacting your government representatives letting them know birds and their habitat matter. In the recent crisis in the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath national refuges, avian botulism once again began claiming the lives of thousands of birds.



August 13, 2026

Honorable Senator Megan Dahle

First Senate District, California Legislature

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Shasta Birding Society, a Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we sincerely thank you for your attention to the drastic impact of avian botulism on the birdlife of the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Lake Basin. We understand the complexities of water distribution in our state, and we support the proposed flow-through plan aimed at keeping water on the refuges to avoid mass die-offs of waterfowl.

We respectfully urge you to continue advocating for policies and funding that ensure adequate water delivery to the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges. Your leadership on this issue is critical to preventing future wildlife losses and protecting one of the Pacific Flyway's most important habitats for migratory birds.

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving the Shasta region, it is our mission to provide the Shasta community with education on current issues affecting birds and advocate for protection of their habitat. Please keep us informed of opportunities to support your efforts and to engage our members in the public process.

Sincerely,

Rebeca Ladron de Guevara, President
Shasta Birding Society
Shastabirding@gmail.com
PO Box 994533
Redding, CA 96099-4533

In response, the Shasta Birding Society joined Bird Alliance of Oregon, and other groups, in writing a joint letter urging the U.S. Department of the Interior to release water to the region *. California State Senator, Megan Dahle, representing District 1 also took swift action, meeting with conservation groups such as the California Waterfowl Association to discuss the urgency as well as long-term habitat protections.

Megan Dahle: Avian Botulism Outbreak Threatens Birds in Klamath Basin

We encourage you to contact your representatives to remind them that bird habitats matter. Jacilyn White, SBS Secretary and Treasurer, sent a letter thanking Senator Dahle for her attention to the matter. Please see the letter below.

We are happy to report that this collective call to action was effective! Water began flowing into the refuges in mid-August, immediately slowing the outbreak.

To read the full article, please visit Oregon Bird Alliance.

*Copies of the joint letter can be provided upon request.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2026 DONATIONS!

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our newsletter! These are our generous donors for 2026 :
THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2026 DONATIONS!

Jerry Andrews | Jan Brockett | Dr. Eleanor Canova-Davis | Dan Greaney | George Horn | Elyce Kelly | Marla Nola | Alice Ratcliffe | Mary Severson | Brian Sorrick | Jay & Terry Thesken | John Winchel

Thank You!

Donations can be made either through our website PayPal link

(Shastabirdingsociety.org) or by check at Shasta Birding Society, PO Box

994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533

SEPTEMBER 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.

Nur Pon Open Space, Bird Walk

September 5th meet at 7:00 am



We welcome all back to our 2026-2027 season of bird outings! We are kicking off the season right in the middle of Redding at the Nur Pon Open Space.

Whether you are a regular visitor or have never been before, please join us for a

gentle walk through this diverse habitat along the Sacramento

River. We will be walking through and across the water channel for a unique riparian experience.

We will meet at the parking lot of the open space. Due to the recent construction of the new Cancer Center, the best way to enter Nur Pon from Hartnell Rd is to turn west on Parkview Ave and then north on Henderson Rd. Restrooms will be available on-site.

Please remember to bring your optics of choice, water, a snack, and a friend to share the experience with.

As your trip leader, I will be available to help anyone looking to learn more about birds, their habits and behavior, or any specific birding techniques.

For any questions: contact us at shastabirding@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there! Dan Bye

As always: our events are subject to change so please refer back to our calendar for updates.

https://shastabirdingsociety.org/calendar/

Fall River Lake/McArthur Swamp Bird Outing

September 26th, meet at 8:30 am



This is a no-fee event.

Meeting Details: We will meet at the Safeway parking area in Burney at 8:30 AM. We can arrange carpooling from there before heading to Fall River Mills.

Trip Overview:

- Estimated Walking Distance: 1–1.5 miles (1.6–2.4 km)

- Estimated Driving Distance (while birding): 6–10 miles (9.7–16.1 km)

Itinerary:

1. Fall River Mills: Our first destination is Fall River Lake, which is excellent for water birds and occasional raptors. We will turn left on Long St. and head north to the boat launch and picnic area at the end of the road. After birding there, we will slowly head back toward town, stopping at each pullout and below the dam. Our final stop in this area will be at the south end of Long St. to check for species near the Bridge St. bridge.

2. McArthur: Next, we will head to McArthur, turning north on Main St. and then northeast on Rat Farm Rd. We will caravan along Rat Farm Rd. to look for raptors, ending at the Big Lake Boat Ramp for more water birds.

3. McArthur Swamp: To complete the trip, we will return to Main St. and drive northwest on McArthur Swamp Rd., continuing our caravan along the channel until we reach the Tule River.

For any questions: contact us at shastabirding@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there! Dan Bye

As always: our events are subject to change so please refer back to our calendar for updates. https://shastabirdingsociety.org/calendar

Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

September 19th 2026 @ 7:30 am FREE



We are again scheduling a visit to the ponds targeting waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating warblers. Assemble at the Treatment Plant's Administration Building at the end of Metz Road at 7:30 am sharp to meet your leader, Larry Jordan. This is a 1/2-day trip that may end in the early afternoon if the birding is good. Directions to the Clear Creek Plant: Take Hwy 273 south, after crossing Clear Creek and past the Win-River Casino, take the second left turn at River Ranch Road and cross over the railroad tracks. Turn left on Eastside Rd. Entrance is at 2200 Metz Road on the right.

Link to map - https://bit.ly/4ae6fdS

Anderson River Park Bird Walk

October 3rd, meet at 7:30am



There is no fee to attend this event.

We are overdue for another bird walk at Anderson River Park!

This upcoming walk will take place across the 440-acre recreational facility managed by the City of Anderson, which features a vast network of trails and a diverse riparian habitat.

We will meet at the amphitheater parking area, located at the southeast end of Kiddyland to the far right near the picnic area.

Event Details:

- Distance: Approximately 1.5–2 miles (2.5–3.3 km).

- Trail Conditions: Fairly level with a mix of paved, dirt, and gravel surfaces. Please note that trails may be shared with runners, bicyclists, dog walkers, and horseback riders.

- Scenery: Views of the Sacramento River, various ponds, open fields, and heavily wooded areas.

- What to Bring: Comfortable footwear, water, snacks, insect repellent, your favorite optics, and a friend.

Grab your gear and come join us!

For any questions: contact us at shastabirding@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there! Dan Bye

As always: our events are subject to change so please refer back to our calendar for updates.

https://shastabirdingsociety.org/calendar

Second Saturday Nature Walks at Turtle Bay

Every Second Saturday October 2026 - May 2026



Help keep a vital community program alive! Our Second Saturday Nature Walks at Turtle Bay return this October, and we need volunteer walk leaders. No prior experience is necessary. If you love the outdoors and enjoy sharing what you see, you are fully qualified. Whether you lead a single walk or several, it is a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning connecting with your community along the beautiful Sacramento River during the height of fall bird migration. If you are interested please email our Education Chair, Stephanie, at shughess123@gmail.com for more information. See you there!

More Upcoming Events Will Be Announced Via Email,

Be Sure To Check Your Inbox!

For More Information On Activities Please Visit Our CALENDAR

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

Rescinding the Roadless Rule

Bruce Webb, Conservation Chair

The time has come, folks! The US Forest Service has now officially filed to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects 44.7 MILLION acres of National Forest Land nationwide from road building, reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas, with limited exceptions. The Roadless Rule protects approximately 4.4 million acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) in California alone. The proposal includes rescission of the protection afforded to the huge Tongass National Forest in Alaska, and would directly impact many protected and special status species including the spotted owl, and many other raptors and special status birds. The justification is flimsy when you research their reasons carefully. It is claimed that the current rule protects too many forest environments from roadbuilding, causing greater risk to the forest from wildfires. Ostensibly, building roads into remote areas will aid in fire control and "turn the tide" away from catastrophic burns. However, careful studies have shown that road building and the access it provides increases, rather than decreases, the risk of wildfire, due to the increased number of vehicle trips into these areas. The Forest Service also contends that rescinding the rule will return control of these areas to local Forest Service management, however, that too falls apart under scrutiny. Any decision by local management to preserve roadless protections will be henceforth appealable to higher management levels, because there will be no roadless rule to intervene.

The filing starts a comment period which runs through September 21, 2026, so time is of the essence. Interestingly, the Administration has not provided an explanation for why the comment period is so short, with the Environmental Impact Statement released only several days ago. So PLEASE consider filing a comment on the official Forest Service comment website here:
https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FS-2025-0001/document?withinCommentPeriod=true

And for more in depth reading on the potential impacts of rescinding the rule, please see the following articles:

https://www.sierraclub.org/save-roadless-rule-protect-our-forests

https://theconversation.com/why-trumps-plan-to-rescind-the-roadless-rule-protecting-national-forests-will-struggle-in-court-290496

https://cepr.net/people/matt-sedlar

TRIP REPORTS

Shasta Birding Society's: Big Day at the Falls: Swifts and Swallows Tour 2 - May 30, 2026



Ten birding adventurers truly rose to the occasion by driving the distance and arriving on time for our one-day event. I want to give a special shoutout to Megan, who joined us to learn more about birds and did a fantastic job. I also want to welcome Roberta and John to our community of avian enthusiasts. While our primary focus was on swifts and swallows, we surveyed every species observed and noted any breeding activities.

Trip Highlights:

Our marathon event began at the Safeway parking lot in Burney, where we spotted a pair of Red Crossbills in the pine trees—a great sign to start the day.

At Burney Falls CA State Park, we walked across Rainbow Bridge and observed an Osprey patrolling the river and a pair of Song Sparrows just upstream. From the Falls Overlook, we caught our first glimpses of Black Swifts flying overhead. On the Rim Trail, we found Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, as well as a Hermit Warbler. This was a "lifer" for Steve and a "First of the Season" (FOS) for many of us.

At Lake Britton, we located many Barn and Tree Swallows. We also heard a Pacific-slope Flycatcher and a Western Wood-Pewee. Other sightings included a Bald Eagle, another Osprey, Western Grebes, and a Belted Kingfisher. Before leaving, Megan spotted a Pileated Woodpecker on a nearby pine tree—an excellent find!

We then headed to Baum/Crystal Lake, where we were greeted by high bird activity. Most notably, we observed a large number of male Cinnamon Teals (suggesting females were nesting) and more Yellow Warblers than we could count. During lunch at Hat Creek Park, I spotted a Vaux's Swift.

Next, we visited the Pit River Overlook, where we were treated to Violet-green Swallows. At Fall River Lake, we saw numerous Cliff Swallows, a Green Heron, Ruddy Ducks in breeding plumage, and a pair of Forster's Terns. A quick stop at the dam led to Megan spotting our only Western Kingbird of the day.

Our final stop was the Bank Swallow Preserve in Fall River Mills. The activity there was enjoyable for everyone, and just as we were leaving, a Red-breasted Sapsucker landed on a nearby fence post.

It was a spectacular day of birding and a pleasure to spend it with fellow Birders.

eBird Trip Report: https://ebird.org/tripreport/532468

Swift and Swallow Tally:

Black Swift (6)

Vaux's Swift (2)

Bank Swallow (20)

Tree Swallow (49)

Violet-green Swallow (4)

Barn Swallow (14)

Cliff Swallow (36)

Shasta Birding Society - Butte Valley National Grassland/Meiss Lake CDFW - June 6, 2026



We were all grateful that Elizabeth (Lizzi) Meisman could lead our troop of six Birders on a grand visit to the Butte Valley National Grasslands (NFS). The immediate area comprises Meiss Lake in the Butte Valley Wildlife Area (CDFW), a farming community, and the Butte Valley National Grasslands maintained by the Klamath NFS.

We arrived at the Goosenest Ranger District Office parking lot to meet with Lizzi and formulate our plan for where to start and finish our quest. Our primary theme is to look for raptors, as well as any other bird or mammal species we can find.

We were about 10 minutes into our drive to Meiss Lake, surveying the fields on both sides of the road, when we came across a band of Black-billed Magpies and Turkey Vultures on the road and fences competing over a small roadkill.

One of the Turkey Vultures swooped in to grab what was left, but after flying just a few meters, it dropped the meal. Suddenly, an adult Bald Eagle—which we hadn't seen behind us—swooped in and grabbed what the vulture had left behind.

Before we continued driving, a couple of Swainson’s Hawk were soaring overhead. When I asked one of our trip members how the trip was going for her so far, she replied, "Epic!"

I wanted to share the location of the Bald Eagle nest we found. It is located in a short section of forest on the west side of the road, near the entrance to the Butte Valley Wildlife Area. We spotted it among some Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Flicker, Northern House Wren, and Western Bluebirds.

We collected a fair number of species at the wildlife area, including several that were nesting and rearing young chicks. We even had the opportunity to see one adult with fledgling Great-horned Owl. The lake levels were great for many diving and dabbling ducks, as well as other waterbirds. We observed high numbers of Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, and White-faced Ibises.

Our next section took us further to the east side of the highway, passing through numerous homesteads and farming areas.

During the drive, we encountered a variety of large birds perched on wire fences and poles, as well as some cute chicks that weren't quite ready to leave their nest yet. What struck us the most, however, was watching smaller, protective birds—like the Red-winged Blackbird and Western Kingbird—boldly confronting larger buteos and raptors, including Swainson’s Hawks, Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles.

The weather was great, the birding was spectacular, and everyone had fun. Based on the feedback received from all the members on the trip, "epic" definitely sums it up.

eBird Trip Report: https://ebird.org/tripreport/535876

Count Total = 55 Species

Raptor Count Summary

20 Turkey Vulture

2 Golden Eagle

9 Bad Eagle

10 Swainson’s Hawk

11 Red-tailed Hawk

2 Great Horned Owl

8 American Kestrel

CA Bird Atlas Field Trip II - Sunday, June 7, 2026



For the Shasta Birding Society's second CA Bird Atlas field trip, we focused on surveying the area west and south of Cottonwood, CA in Tehama County. The area was under-surveyed and primarily privately owned. The habitat was a mixture of grassland, oak savannah, agricultural and rural residential. By doing roadside birding, we were able to add data to 6 new atlas blocks for this section of the county. We found 37 bird species and confirmed evidence of breeding for 8 species, including Western Kingbird, European Starling, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, California Scrub-jay, Yellow billed-magpie, Western Bluebird, and the exciting bookend of the day was two pairs of neighboring American Kestrels nesting in large Valley Oaks! Thank you Rebeca, Dan, and David for dedicating your day to filling in some of the gaps in the California Bird Atlas in the North State!

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

WEBSITE

YOUTUBE

COMMUNITY INFO BOARD







While there are no active attempts to locate an AI Data Center in Shasta County, our open spaces, rural way of life and water resources make us a prime target. These big tech corporations often lay the ground work for their projects before the public is even aware. Once this is done, it is difficult to fight the data center projects. We must take preemptive action to stop them BEFORE they get a foot in the door.

Four key points for why we are fighting:

- **Water Exploitation** - data centers consume enormous amounts of water daily to cool their systems. In a state facing recurring droughts, our water belongs to humans, local wildlife, and agriculture - not industrial server warehouses.
- **Energy Demand** - Skyrocketing Energy Bills - AI infrastructure demands massive amounts of electricity and brand new transmission lines. Local ratepayers and existing businesses should not bear the disproportionate costs of fueling these corporates facilities.
- **Destroying Community Character** - Shasta County depends on recreation, tourism, agriculture, and small businesses. We chose this region for its rural environment, natural beauty, and slower pace of life. Massive industrial campuses do not align with our long term community vision.
- **Public Health Risks** - These projects bring documented, ongoing noise pollution from 24/7 cooling generators and heavy industrial infrastructure footprints. Our Goal is to have establish a complete ban on Data Centers in ALL of Shasta County.

Get Involved - Visit out Website

nodatacentershastacounty.org

Email us @ nodatacentershastacounty@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: No Data Centers in Shasta County

Sign the Petition

Follow us on Instagram: No Data Centers in Shasta County





