



# ***CHIRP-N-CHATTER***

**The Newsletter of the Shasta Birding Society**

**Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Shasta  
and eastern portions of Trinity County, California**

**March 2024**



This month Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation employees and volunteers will be introducing a menagerie of education animals to us via Zoom for our March meeting. Depending on each animal's amenability during our time frame, we may be seeing both birds and reptiles: a crow, kestrel, turtle, and a rosy boa may appear. Learn the fascinating natural history of each animal, how they came into care, and the amazing work of our local wild animal rescue group. Raven Capozzo is the general manager of Shasta Wildlife and will emcee the program. When she was 15, she began volunteering at Sulphur Creek Nature Center in Hayward and was eventually hired there as a naturalist. When she moved to the Redding area, she rescued a Turkey Vulture on her property and brought it to Shasta Wildlife, where the staff were surprised that she knew how to avoid the inevitable puking of the bird during its capture and exam. She was hired and soon became general manager in 2019.

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

Topic: Our March Presentation from Shasta Wildlife Refuge

Time: Mar 13, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89551071450>

## 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:

Shannon Hunter, Gloria Boulden, and Dinesh & Kathryn Mantri - Thank You!

Donations can be made either through our [PayPal link](#) or by check at Wintu Audubon, PO Box 994533, Redding, CA 96099-4533

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## JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



As a member of the Shasta Birding Society Board of Directors you will help promote the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of birds and their natural environment in Shasta County. You will be part of educating the next generation of birders who are passionate about protecting and preserving habitats that feed and shelter the diversity of wildlife in our community. We are looking for individuals with passion and commitment to join us in our effort to engage our community in the joys of watching birds, learning about their needs and advocating for policies that protect them and their habitat. If you are that person, contact Jaci White (530) 337-6929 or [jpw48@cw.com](mailto:jpw48@cw.com), by 3/31/2024 for more information on the Shasta Birding Society, A Wintu Country Chapter of the National Audubon Society.



**Keep current of upcoming  
events & birding information.**

**Visit our website**

**[shastabirdingsociety.org](http://shastabirdingsociety.org)**

## MARCH ACTIVITIES

**Note: All participants, ages 5 and older, must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours and sign a waiver prior to all field trips.**

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area - Saturday, March 9th @ 6:30 am**



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 **6:30am sharp** to carpool or at parking area 14 at the refuge at 8:30am. 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, and for those that want more we will check the ponds on the east side of Pennington Road (sites 6 -11 on the [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>

**Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation - Wednesday, March 13th@7pm**



Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation employees and volunteers will be introducing a menagerie of education animals to us via Zoom for our March meeting. Depending on each animal's amenability during our time frame, we may be seeing both birds and reptiles: a crow, kestrel, turtle, and a rosy boa may appear. Learn the fascinating natural history of each animal,

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### **Birding Basics at Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary - March 14th @ 9:30am**



We will be talking about the seasonal aspects of bird watching on this walk led by Education Chair Tricia Ford. Which birds are here only in the winter months? Which ones stay here for a short while for breeding in spring and summer? And which can we expect to see year round? Beginning birdwatchers are especially encouraged to join us in learning to identify the large

variety of avian life in the area. We usually see between 30 and 36 bird species on the walk. Meet at the Turtle Bay Redding Boat Launch, located behind the Redding Civic Auditorium (Map: <https://shorturl.at/twRVX>) for a leisurely two-hour stroll on accessible paved and gravel trails along the Sacramento River. Bathrooms can be found at several locations along the way. Binoculars are available to borrow, and instructions will be provided for their use. Rain will cancel. Contact Tricia Ford at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Iron Canyon Outing - Saturday, March 16th @ 7:15 am**



Join us for a 3.5-mile easy birding hike at the Iron Canyon trail on the Sacramento River Bend in northern Tehama County. The trail is on the Tuscan Formation, a vast and ancient volcanic flow that carried volcanic rocks and boulders from the Cascade Mountains down toward the northeastern part of the Central Valley. Due to the mixture of rocky grasslands, oak and juniper

woodlands, and high canyon cliffs overlooking the Sacramento Valley and the surrounding mountain ranges, the landscape is home to a fascinating array of birds. We may expect to see any or all of 4 falcon species: Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and American Kestrel. Other species likely to be encountered are Lewis's and Acorn Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Rock Wren, American Pipit, Western or Mountain Bluebird, Bald or Golden Eagle. Stay a bit longer after the hike, and we will bird at Hog Lake for waterfowl, just a 2-minute drive up the road. Meet at the Iron Canyon trailhead at 7:15 am. The hike is easy but due to the rocky terrain, please wear sturdy hiking shoes.

GoogleMaps link: <https://rb.gy/c7jhz3> Directions from Red Bluff: From Highway 99, take Highway 36 East toward Susanville/Lassen Volcanic National Park. Continue for 5.2 miles until you reach the gravel parking lot on the left.

## **Coleman Fish Hatchery and Battle Creek Wildlife Area - Sunday, March 24th @ 8:00 am**



Our plan is to meet at Coleman Fish Hatchery parking lot and work our way to Battle Creek Salmon Trail on the west of hatchery. This 1.4-mile path will provide great access around ponds and 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 1.2-mile walk

through large tracts of oaks, willows, and many other native and non-native plants and trees. With recent wet seasonal weather patterns these past few weeks, we should have ideal conditions for many waterbirds, raptors, and passerines within this area of 582 acres to explore. The place to meet is 24411 Coleman Fish Hatchery Rd, Anderson, CA 96007, pin drop:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ndVyEXHLRACygV9C9>

We will stage vehicle(s) at Battle Creek Wildlife Area, so we can transport drivers back to Coleman Fish Hatchery parking lot and pick up others at the end of the outing. We will reschedule if rained out. Contact me at [danbye56@gmail.com](mailto:danbye56@gmail.com) with questions.

## **NESTBOX MONITORING IS UPON US!**



If you haven't read [my recent post on the website's blog page](#), you may not know that the nestbox monitoring season is upon us! You may have noticed that you are hearing a lot more chatter from the Oak Titmouse population in your area. That is because they are now beginning nest building to get ready to lay eggs. Shasta Birding Society is one of only three organizations in California listed as NestWatch Chapters with The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We monitor 70 nest boxes at four different locations in Shasta County and we need monitors! Two of the four locations are covered but we need at least two more monitors. One of the sites is at Palo Cedro Community Park. With only six nestboxes to monitor, it is a great place to learn how to successfully monitor nestboxes. The other location needing monitors is on the south side of the Sacramento River Trail. The South Sacramento River Trail has 18 nestboxes but could be covered by two monitors, one with 10 boxes and another monitoring 8 boxes. The photo above of the Tree Swallow with newly hatched young was taken at the South Sacramento River Trail location last season. Note: The monitoring season begins now and ends at the end of July. If you are interested, please contact Larry Jordan at [webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org)

## EARTH DAY FESTIVAL - NEXT MONTH - APRIL 20th

**EARTH DAY REDDING**  
**April 20th • 11AM-4PM • Caldwell Park**

**Free Event**

Music  
 Food  
 Booths  
 Kid's Activities  
 Secure Bike Corral

REU  
 City of Redding  
 Electric Utility

KIXE  
 PBS

Shasta  
 Environmental  
 Alliance

Upcoming Events Calendar  
 at [seashasta.org](http://seashasta.org)

Patricia L. and David K. Kimball Fund of

SHASTA WHEELMEN  
 A REDDING, CALIFORNIA BICYCLE CLUB

Community  
 FOUNDATION  
 OF THE NORTH STATE

REDDING  
 PARKS

Join the fun at the second annual Earth Day celebration sponsored by the Shasta Environmental Alliance. The free event will be held at Caldwell Park from 11:00 to 4:00 and will feature kids' activities, booths, music, and food. Last year's event was held on a gorgeous spring day that was inspiring to all. Our group will have a booth again this year but with our new name, Shasta Birding Society, on our updated banner, tablecloth, and information. We are looking for members to help us staff the booth. If you are interested, please contact Education Chair Tricia Ford

at [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com).

# THE CONSERVATION CORNER

## FROM BRUCE WEBB, CONSERVATION CHAIR

City of Redding 2045 General Plan

Last month we told you about the Redding Planning Commission's review of the draft General Plan, which guides growth in Redding and surrounding areas to the year 2045. We advocated for stronger policies to protect birds and other wildlife, as did several other concerned citizens. As well as these policies, which affect how Redding addresses growth's impact on wildlife and habitats, we are concerned about the Plan's lack of firm Climate Action goals, the process of maintaining stream and Sacramento River development setbacks, and the lack of reliable preservation or mitigation for the loss of trees and oak woodlands. We sent a detailed comment letter to the Commission last week, in advance of their February 27 meeting (please read the letter [HERE](#)). At the meeting, President Rebeca Ladrón de Guevara spoke to the Commission to again urge them to make the suggested revisions to the Plan and its EIR. Although it now appears we made an impact and several minor changes were made by the Commission, they referred the Plan and the EIR, mostly without revisions, to the City Council, but without a majority recommendation for approval. Consequently, our effort to influence the City to make further revisions will have to continue at a later date when these documents are submitted to the Council for their review and approval. As always, we will keep you posted!

## TRIP REPORTS

### Payne's Creek Wetlands Field Trip February 10th



Six eager birders enjoyed great weather, casual walking, and limitless views of the surrounding mountain ranges. This early seasonal event finished with a total species count of 48 this location had plenty of wet areas with all ponds full everywhere.. We had great raptor observations of Turkey Vulture, Golden and Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, and American Kestrel. We had many flyovers of

Greater White-fronted and Canada Goose with limited numbers of waterbirds like Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, Great Egret, Belted Kingfisher and Great Blue Heron. Then our common Oak Woodland and Field species of Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Red-shafted), Black and Say's Phoebe, California Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Western Bluebird, Lesser Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. To finish, we saw White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Savannah, Song, and Lincoln's Sparrow and Spotted Towhee along the edges of berry thickets.

## Birding Basics at Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary on February 15th



Four birders walked off their Valentine's Day chocolate along the Sacramento and found a real sweetheart of a bird, the seldom-seen White-throated Sparrow. The lovely little sparrow posed on a log and in the grass for several good photo opportunities. One of the many Ruby-crowned Kinglets was just as interested in us as we were in it, buzzing our heads to check us out. Buffleheads and

Goldeneyes muddled our efforts to count them as they continually flew up the river and drifted back down with the current, disappearing underwater for food and popping up in unexpected locations. Thirty four species made an appearance, including a close-up White-breasted Nuthatch with a particularly rusty red undercarriage.

## Lema Ranch Bird Walk on February 24th



Twelve eager birders experienced a chilly morning, but an exciting one as we encountered a rare Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker to start the day. Other woodpeckers seen included Nuttall's, Downey, Acorn, and a couple Red-breasted Sapsuckers. Tree and Violet-green Swallows are arriving and Greater White-fronted Geese were still plentiful and hosting a trio of Snow Geese. Western

Bluebirds were abundant and staking claim to homes for the upcoming nesting season. Thanks to a enthusiastic group of birders, fifty-six bird species were encountered on the three and a half hour walk.

