



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**

April 2024



For our April evening program, local photographer Jane Dysert will share her love of Northern California wildlife by taking us on a virtual nature walk while sharing her knowledge of bird and animal behavior through lots of photos and fun facts. Learn what Jane takes on her walks, including her favorite ID books, the locations that she frequents, and some basic photography tips that anyone can use without taking a deep dive into the technical aspects. Dysert is a self-taught photographer who began while attending sporting events in which her daughter was participating. Now retired from a career in social work, she enjoys early morning walks with her camera four to five days a week. "These relaxing early morning sojourns bring me peace and definitely are good for my mental health."

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

Topic: A Virtual Wildlife Walk with Photographer Jane Dysert

Time: Apr 10, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86538624002>

Meeting ID: 865 3862 4002

One tap mobile

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- +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 865 3862 4002

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86538624002>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

To show how much we appreciate our donors we want to recognize you in our monthly newsletter! We received a very generous donation in March from Eleanor Canova-Davis! - Thank You!

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



Keep current of upcoming
events & birding information.
Visit our website
shastabirdingsociety.org

APRIL 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.

Lightning Canyon Ranch - Saturday, April 6th @ 6:00 am



Our first April 2024 field trip will be on Saturday April 6 from 6:00 am to noon to the Lightning Canyon Ranch, a private 2,205-acre property located at Lakehead overlooking Shasta Lake. This will be a half-day trip in rugged terrain targeting mid-elevation forest species such as Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, American Dipper, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Northern Pygmy Owl, and possible migrant warblers and flycatchers. The owner's local representative will give us an outline of the rich history of the property from Native American use, conservation via the Pacific Forest Trust, the 2021 Salt Fire to current

and planned uses. We will then take a 1-2 mile birding hike along rugged logging and fire roads culminating with your own lunch at a hunters camp area. There are no bathroom facilities, wear layers of clothing and stout hiking boots, bring water and lunch, also trekking poles, bear spray and/or whistle if you have them. Be also alert for poison oak, rattle snakes, bear and mountain lion. We will be carpooling with high clearance AWD/4WD vehicles due to limited parking and unpaved access roads. If you are interested, please contact webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org to register and participate in the trip, receive detailed directions, eBird protocols, and obtain trip waivers to be signed and returned by the end of the day, April 4th. Persistent rain/snow prior to or the day of will cancel the trip due to unpaved road conditions.

Birding Basics at Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary - Thursday, April 11th @ 8:30 to 10:30 am



The miracle of spring migration is beginning! We will discover which birds have left their winter homes and returned to our area to raise their young. Or are they passing through Redding on their way to their breeding grounds further north? Find out by joining us on this series of walks geared toward beginning birdwatchers, but all skill levels are welcome to share in the fun. We usually see

between 30 and 36 bird species around the Sundial Bridge. Meet at the [Turtle Bay Redding Boat Launch](#), located behind the Redding Civic Auditorium 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 for more information. Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation - Wednesday, March 13th@7pm

Crawling Critters and Feathered Friends - Saturday, April 13th 9 to 11:00 am



Young nature lovers can enjoy a spring morning learning about our flying feathered friends and creepy, crawling critters! Learn about the incredible bird species present at the Shasta Land Trust's Sacramento River property with a walking bird tour led by the Shasta Birding Society. Kids will learn tips to ID birds with a hands-on bird watching lesson. You'll also get a chance to see

and learn about a variety of unique geckos, lizards, and other reptilian critters! Binoculars will be available to borrow from the Shasta Birding Society. Kids snacks and beverages will also be provided. This free event is best geared for children ages 5-12. To register your child, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crawling-critters-feathered-friends-tickets-852588153117>

Earth Day Festival - Saturday, April 20th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm



Join us for a day of eco-friendly fun at the 2024 Redding Earth Day Festival. We invite you to come together with our community to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our local environment. **Admission to this event is free.** This Festival is a fantastic opportunity for residents and visitors alike to learn about local environmental efforts and initiatives. Throughout the day, attendees can enjoy live music, booths by Local Nonprofits and Government Agencies, three food vendors, a bike corral, and educational activities for kids of all ages.





Join Shasta Birding Society for a field trip led by Brooke Thompson of the Bureau of Land Management at the 426-acre Rancho Breisgau Property in southern Shasta County. The property is the site of a BLM restoration project to reclaim the area from agricultural use to riparian oak woodland in the Battle Creek watershed. Brooke will present the details of the history, progress and goals of BLM's work at the site. We will meet at [the entrance gate off of Jellys Ferry Road](#) at 8:00 am,

Saturday April 27, 2024, located approximately ¼ mile south of the intersection of Jellys Ferry Road and Coleman Fish Hatchery Road and pool to various locations of interest to learn about site. Short hikes are expected on level ground, there are no bathroom facilities at the site, but there are facilities at the nearby Battle Creek Wildlife Area and Coleman Fish Hatchery. Expect the program to last approximately 60 – 90 minutes with some free time after to bird.

NESTBOX MONITORS NEEDED!



We have been monitoring 70 nest boxes for six years now and thanks to Tricia Ford, Shasta Birding Society is now one of three NestWatch Chapters in

California! We have five locations that we monitor, Oak Run, Palo Cedro Community Park, Lema Ranch, North Sacramento River Trail and South Sacramento River Trail. Right now we have only Oak Run and North Sacramento River Trail covered. We need at least three or four more nestbox monitors. If you love birds (which of course you do) and can spare one day a week to check on these beautiful birds as they lay their eggs and rear their young, you can make a huge difference in the number of songbirds that survive their first year. You will be able to watch the entire process unfold.



If you want to learn more about cavity nesting birds like the Western Bluebird, Oak Titmouse, Tree Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch and Ash-throated Flycatcher, and what it takes for these amazing species to rear their offspring, contact Larry Jordan at webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org for more information. I will take you out to one of our nestbox sites and go through the process with you. I guarantee the experience will bring you closer to the birds you love to watch, enjoy and photograph.

THE CONSERVATION CORNER FROM BRUCE WEBB, CONSERVATION CHAIR

On a 3 to 2 vote at their March 26th meeting, the Redding City Council approved the General Plan Update 2045 and certified its Environmental Impact Report despite both documents' serious flaws, as pointed out by [Shasta Birding Society's attorney Winter King in her March 22, 2024 letter](#). Our principal objections were: 1) the new General Plan includes weakly worded policies, as well as a lengthy qualifying introductory statement regarding policy commitments, that too easily will result in glossing over or avoiding requirements to preserve and protect wildlife and rare plants or restrict development from harming or removing riparian and other sensitive wildlife habitat; 2) the new General Plan and the EIR do not provide evidence that setback requirements and provisions for waivers of those requirements will be effective in avoiding impacts to wildlife from removal of or encroachment upon riparian vegetation that many species depend on; and 3) the City avoids making any firm General Plan commitment to

adopt a Citywide Climate Action Plan, which not only subverts requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, but also puts wildlife resources at further risk from climate change impacts. We will continue to pursue City policies and requirements that are protective of our unique, at-risk wildlife resources.

TRIP REPORTS

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area on March 9th



On March 9th, three excited birders spent a gorgeous day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. It was a cool, overcast morning giving beautiful scenic observations. We actually began the trip with a quick stop along the road when we scoped a flock of Long-billed Curlew foraging in a field. We birded the road from the entrance to parking lot 14 and scoped the permanent pond there where we quickly found all three species of Teal, Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon. We walked the 2 mile Flyway Loop Trail, drove the Auto Tour Loop and

finished with one of the auto routes on the west side of the Wildlife Area.

All tallied eighty-four species were observed! We encountered large flocks of Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis flying in on the refuge. Raptors included a Peregrine Falcon and a Great Horned Owl! A couple of the closest encounters were a Sora and an American Bittern!

Birding Basics at Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary on March 14th



Seven determined birders held onto their hats and struggled against the high winds on this otherwise gorgeous day. We watched an osprey fighting the strong gusts to attempt unsuccessfully to dive for fish. A Bald Eagle flew by, seemingly unphased by the wind. Many of the 31 species that we observed were hanging out close to the ground, like the flock of Dark-eyed Juncos in which we found

one member of the Slate-colored subspecies among the rest of the Oregon group. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet came down to our level and repeatedly performed its funny little whistly song right in front of us.

Iron Canyon on March 16th

A group of 10 hiked the Iron Canyon trail on this pleasantly mild, late winter day, with many wildflowers already in Bloom. We had a decent list of 47 total bird



species. The usual oak savannah birds were present, such as California Quail, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Western Bluebird and Oak Titmouse. We found grassland birds like Savannah Sparrow, Horned Lark, and Western Meadowlark. Tree and Violet-green Swallows were some of our early Spring migrants to arrive. Several members of our party saw Lifer birds, including many Lewis's Woodpeckers, Rock wrens, and a Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Our smallest and largest falcons in the region were present, American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon, respectively. Perhaps the highlight of the day was a pair of Prairie Falcons in pursuit of a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons over the Sacramento River canyon.

Battle Creek Wildlife Area on March 24th



This early spring outing found twelve committed birders ready to seize the day with a good start at Coleman Fish Hatchery. Fortunately, the weather maker from the day before settled down from the high winds and hail to a calm breeze, few minutes of light showers only to turn into a beautiful morning. The Coleman/ East Battle Creek section of the morning yielded 58 species with the majority of waterbirds for the day. All followed by Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Common

Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, and Common Gallinule. We were also treated with 8-Wilson Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Egret, Great Blue and Green Heron. The passerines came through with great observations of Black Phoebe, Oak Titmice, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, House and Marsh Wrens, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, along with White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrows, 8-Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warbler. We started up again at West Battle Creek section for the opportunity survey woodland areas of riparian and mixed forest where we logged 40 species. The highlights for the westside were Bewick's Wren, Lewis's Woodpecker, a pair of Great Horned Owls, Anna's Hummingbird, and Double-crested Cormorant. In total, our species count for this day's event was 63.

Trout Release Days March 21st and 26th



Shasta Birding Society introduced the joys of birdwatching to children ages 6 to 16 at Whiskeytown's Brandy Creek Marina on two spring mornings in March. The students were at the lake to release the trout fry that they had raised from eggs in their classroom aquariums, a project organized by the Shasta Trinity Flyfishers. We loaned each child a pair of binoculars, showed them how to focus, and then went on a short lakeshore bird walk. The kids

also learned how to use a field guide through a competitive game of bird identification. It was a fun and tiring experience as hundreds of children experienced birding at our booth.

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WINTUAUDUBONSOCIETY](https://www.youtube.com/wintuaudubonsociety)

A female Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) mom entices her nestlings to fledge from the nest box. She comes to the entrance hole and calls to the youngsters in the nest. She simulates feeding them but actually gives them no food to try to encourage them to leave the nest. This is a typical routine for cavity nesting birds to coax their young out of the cavity in which they hatched and are often reluctant to leave!

