

BIRDMAN



Black-necked stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Photo courtesy Texas Parks and Wildlife Department © 2006.



Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) by Loren Kutina.

Winter migration

BY TED GLOVER

A trip into northern California in the winter is always rewarding for those of us who love to see and watch the large flocks of migrating birds that visit this time of year. Just south of Yreka, in the beautiful Scott's Valley area, we saw large concentrations of red-tailed hawks, northern Harrier hawks, American kestrels, turkey vultures and several golden eagles.

In the northern part of the Sacramento Valley numerous wildlife refuges are located and provide many opportunities to view large concentrations of waterfowl. Thousands of migrating snow geese spend the winter here along with ducks, white-fronted geese, tundra swans and white pelicans. Wading birds are common, too, including long-billed curlews, black-necked stilts, white-faced ibis and snowy egrets.

On the auto tour at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge we always see hundreds of black-crowned night herons. We were fortunate this trip to see a peregrine falcon and a great horned owl.

After leaving the Sacramento Valley, we drove

over to Clear Lake, one of the larger lakes in California. While in the area, we visited the Cache Creek Wildlife Area and saw many small forest birds on our hike including bushtits, golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets, oak titmice, Hutton's vireo and Nuttall's woodpecker.

The highlight of our visit to Clear Lake was an early morning walk around Clear Lake State Park, a 565-acre oasis along the west shore near Kelseyville. We were only there for about three hours but spotted 56(!) different species of birds and waterfowl including: California and spotted towhees, bald eagles, orange-crowned and Townsend's warblers, California and mountain quail; and in the water, eared and western grebes, buffleheads, common and hooded mergansers and even a common loon.

It was a great trip coming back home via the coast. Total bird species: 121.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681



Josephine County Master Gardener Classes

Brewing Compost Tea

Wednesday April 8, 2009 • 6:30 pm to 8 pm • FREE Class

Learn how to make the many different blends for making organic compost tea. Learn the benefits and importance of this mixture to grow healthy nutritious plants in your organic garden. This is a hands on demonstration. Learn from a long time veteran Master Gardener.

Trees and Shrubs to Know in Oregon

Thursday May 14, 2009 • 9:00 am to 12:00 pm • Cost of \$20.00

Learn to Identify Native Trees and Shrubs of Oregon using a simple plant key. Instructor Max Bennett OSU Forestry Agent in Jackson and Josephine Counties will have a hands-on workshop. Max will be using the latest editions of Trees to Know in Oregon and Field Guide to Shrubs of Southwestern Oregon published by Oregon State University. These excellent reference books are included in the fee.

Pre-registraton is is required.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Thursday June 11, 2009 • 6:30 pm to 8 pm •FREE Class

Learn how to grow and use rhododendrons and azaleas in your garden. Learn how to propagate, prune and general culture of these amazing colorful plants.

All classes are held at OSU Extension Auditorium 215 Ringuette St, Grants Pass Please register for classes by calling OSU Josephine County Extension Office at 541-476-6613 for any questions.

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Josephine County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people. If you need particular accommodations, please call our Extension Office at (541-476-6613) at least three weeks prior to the event.

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